



RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia

National Annual Report

2010



Lest We Forget

Fromelles 250th Re-interment and Cemetery Opening

20 July 2010

The last of 250 Australian and British World War I troops recovered from the mass grave at Pheasant Wood have been re-interred with full military honours in Fromelles, France.

It comes 94 years after the soldiers were killed in the Battle of Fromelles. Of the men recovered, 205 have been identified as Australian, 96 of which have been named, three served with the British army and 42 are still classified as unknown.

The ceremony also marked the official opening of the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Ceremony. Her Excellency, the Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, military and community dignitaries, relatives of the deceased and thousands of members of the public attended the event. The Battle of Fromelles was the costliest in Australian military history, with 5533 soldiers either killed, wounded, taken prisoner or missing in just 24 hours.



Front Cover: Regimental Sergeant Major - Army, Warrant Officer Class One Stephen Ward pays his respect to each of the 250 soldiers at the cemetery dedicated to the men who lost their lives in the Battle of Fromelles.
(Photo courtesy of the Department of Defence)

Inside Front Cover: Bearer party carrying the coffin of the 250th soldier reburied in Fromelles.
(Photo and text courtesy of the Department of Defence)

2010 RSL National Annual Report

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National President's Report



Ken Doolan
National President

The past year has been one of significant achievement for the League. We have increased our membership, provided strong and effective support to the veteran community, participated in many major commemorative events, actively lobbied for improvements in the method of indexing military superannuation payments and provided effective and strong support to the Australian Defence Force in several different ways – and much more.

The RSL was also challenged during the year with the need for all its elements including Sub-Branched, Branches and the National Organisation to become compliant with our status as an income tax exempt charity.

It has also been a sad year during which we have farewelled more than a few of our older members who saw active service during the Second World War; and joined with the nation in mourning the loss of 12 Australian soldiers killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. As we go to print we have learned of the loss in action of another of Australia's finest.

I join with the National Executive and all members of the Returned & Services League of Australia in conveying our most sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice so that we may continue to live in freedom. The League honours their service and sacrifice and we will do all we can to support their families and dependants.

Membership

Two significant advances during the year were the achievement of the long sought goal of a common RSL membership card throughout the nation; and the introduction of the virtual defence Sub-Branch established 'online' thereby allowing serving members of the ADF to join the League without having to commit to membership of a geographically based sub-branch.

Another very important advance was the successful effort by members of the League to recruit former members of the Regular or Reserve forces.

The task ahead of us requires every member of the League to take up the challenge of recruiting one new member every year. We estimate there are more than 300,000 Australians who have served in either the Regular or Reserve forces who are not members of the RSL. We have much to offer these men and women and the challenge for RSL members is to seek them out and explain the benefits of membership of the League.

I encourage all to reach out to these potential members of the League; to invite them to join; to make them welcome; and to explain what we have achieved and what we hope to achieve for them and for all ex-service personnel and their dependants.

Support to League Members and the Australian Community

Without fanfare, the League has continued to provide a wide range of services to the veteran community and their dependants during the year. Our advocates, pension officers and welfare officers have undertaken relevant TIP training to enable them to meet the needs of those who seek our help; while others have undertaken hospital visits, given talks at schools prior to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and, amongst many other donated services, have provided transport to enable the more elderly to attend League functions and other important personal commitments. The value to the Australian community of these enduring volunteer services cannot be underestimated and I thank and congratulate League members for their efforts. We do much to assist the elderly in avoiding social isolation and in helping them cope with the afflictions of old age. In this context the work of our Women's Auxiliaries deserves special commendation.

Bushfires, floods and devastating cyclones continue to wreak havoc on the Australian continent and people from time to time and it is during these times of national need that the RSL rallies to support the wider community. In small country towns and in the suburbs of our major cities, members of the League have stepped forward to lead and to help. We have also donated funds to those most severely affected by natural disasters and I thank all members of the

League for their generous personal and financial support to our fellow citizens.

Participation in Major Commemorative Events

The number of our fellow citizens who attended ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemoration ceremonies during 2010 increased almost everywhere. The lead role the RSL plays in organising and arranging these important events should be a source of great pride to members as it underscores our acceptance by most Australians as an enduring force for good in the community. It also recognises that many Australians look to the RSL to uphold the ANZAC traditions of respect for those who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

On your behalf it was my privilege to represent the RSL at two major commemorative ceremonies at Fromelles, France in January and July. At the first, conducted in a snow covered new war cemetery, the only one to be constructed in France in over 50 years, one of the recently discovered remains of those who were killed in action in 1916 at the Battle of Fromelles was reinterred. Then on 19 July at a solemn reinterment commemoration attended by the Australian Governor General, the remains of the last of those recovered from a nearby field where he had been hastily buried along with many others by enemy forces more than 90 years ago was reverently laid to rest. Modern DNA technology along with the discovery of other material has allowed the identification of some of these bodily remains - a source of great comfort and pride to descendants. A quite surprisingly large number of Australians travelled to Fromelles at their own expense to participate in the 19 July commemoration and reinterment service and to pay their respects to the fallen.

Submissions to Government

The League forwarded two major submissions to government during 2010.

The first was a substantial document in which we argued for the replacement of the Consumer Price Index with a more appropriate index such as the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings Index for adjusting payments to military superannuants to accord with increases in the cost of living. We also argued that military superannuants in the DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS schemes have the right to be considered separate from other Commonwealth superannuants; and that the

Parliament had consistently agreed this approach over several decades.

The Government has not responded formally to our submission but has made it clear that it does not support our arguments. The Opposition announced prior to the 2010 election that it supported the separate treatment of military superannuants for the purposes of indexation of superannuation entitlements but only in respect of those in the DFRB and DFRDB schemes. As this document goes to print the Opposition's bill to give effect to this commitment is being debated in the Senate.

The National Executive continues to closely monitor this important issue and to take every opportunity to lobby federal politicians to the League's just stance.

The second major submission was the League's response to the government's *Military Court of Australia Bill 2010*. This proposed legislation seeks to replace the existing system of Courts Martial for trying serious service offences with the establishment of single Military Judges who will act alone when trying such cases. The legislation also proposes getting around a protection in s.80 of the Constitution which holds that trials on indictment must be tried by a jury.

The Attorney General has acknowledged our concerns but has reaffirmed the Government's intention of proceeding with the *Military Court of Australia Bill 2010* during 2011. The League will continue to lobby members of the House of Representatives and Senators to reject this legislation because the National Executive considers it removes fundamental rights of protection for service personnel alleged to have committed serious service offences, which, if proven, could result in significant periods of incarceration.

Both major submissions have been made public on the RSL national web-site.

I was also involved in negotiations during 2010 about the Government's plan to merge the DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS Boards with the Board of Comsuper. I raised the League's concern about lack of prior consultation about this change with Prime Minister Rudd in late January. This led to a series of meetings with Ministers in succeeding months resulting in an agreement that the ex-service community would be consulted about the two employee representatives to be appointed to the merged board. The League did not oppose the Board merger because to have done so had the potential to disadvantage current and future

members of the Military Superannuation Benefit Scheme.

The Government met its obligation of prior consultation with the ex-service organisations in mid year when with other ESO leaders, I met with the Chief of the Defence Force and was advised prior to the formal announcement that the two merged Board members would be General Peter Cosgrove and Mr John McCullagh.

Support for Members of the Australian Defence Force

The major new initiative of the RSL during 2010 was the launch of the RSL Support Pack for those wounded in action. This new venture has been widely applauded within the armed forces with the Chiefs of Army and Air Force attending the launch ceremony at RSL National Headquarters.

The RSL Support Pack complements the Army's Simpson Pack which provides those wounded in action with a supply of Army casual clothing and toiletries for use while they are recovering in hospital. The RSL Support Pack is a small to medium sized airline bag containing a variety of items such as an i-Pod, a woollen scatter rug and an Australian flag. The items in the League's Support Pack have been chosen to help lift the morale and improve the quality of life of those wounded in action as they recover in hospital - and to deliver the message that we in the RSL care for their wellbeing. The reaction from members of the ADF to the introduction of this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive and it is to the great credit of the National Secretary and the staff at RSL National Headquarters that this initiative has been such a success.

We have also stepped up our efforts in monitoring the pay and conditions of service of members of the ADF. Commodore Syd Lemon volunteered to act as the RSL intervenor at hearings of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal and is now an active participant in this role. He, along with Air Commodore Peter McDermott, Major General Horrie Howard and Commander Peter Cooke-Russell have accepted our invitation to join the RSL National Conditions of Service Committee thereby adding their considerable wisdom and experience to the deliberations of that Committee in support of the National Executive.

The National Defence Committee under the leadership of Chairman Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross continues to closely monitor other ADF issues ranging from Australia's strategic and security outlook to the ongoing development of

ADF capabilities. Their advice remains a most important part of approaches the League makes to Ministers and Shadow Ministers.

Maintaining the League's Status as an Income Exempt Charity

It is pleasing to report that considerable progress was made during the year in our ongoing quest to ensure that all elements of the League comply with our status as an income tax exempt charity. The Victorian, West Australian and Tasmanian Branches have all but completed the changes needed and the Queensland Branch is well advanced.

We owe it to those who founded and nurtured the League through hard times to ensure that we do all in our power to protect this privileged taxation position. Given the enormous effort of our members each day and every day in voluntarily undertaking a wide variety of tasks of enormous benefit to our fellow Australians, there is no doubt that we continue to warrant our privileged taxation status. And in undertaking patriotic acts such as commemorating the war dead, assisting members of the Australian Defence Force and in educating the young about the benefits and freedoms they enjoy because of the sacrifices of many in past and current wars.

Focusing on the Future

While remaining true to the objects of the founders of the League, the National Executive is well advanced in planning for the future. The 2011 National Congress will showcase the work of the RSL by examining contemporary and future issues such as advances in the treatment of mental health problems arising from operational service. And chaired by the National Veterans' Affairs Advisor, the RSL's Senior Advocates and Pension Officers Forum seeks ways of improving the timely delivery of services to our members. Much more of the League's work is being conducted 'on-line' on the internet - and we are examining new ways of keeping all members fully informed and up to date with the latest news.

An aspiration we have still to achieve is to have the RSL membership card immediately accepted by all RSL Sub-Branches and RSL Clubs nationwide. Being denied entrance to RSL premises when visiting interstate remains a considerable disincentive and we will need to expand our efforts to remove this not inconsiderable irritant.

Conclusion

RSL members can have confidence that the League remains a powerful force for good within the Australian community. They can also take pride that we conduct our affairs openly and democratically; and that we continue to robustly promote ideals in which we believe and issues we consider should be heeded by the nation's decision makers.

KEN DOOLAN
National President

National Congress

The 95th Annual National Congress of the Returned & Services League of Australia was held in Dubbo, NSW on 14 September and was officially opened by the Mayor of Dubbo, Councillor Alan Smith. The Official Opening was held at the Dubbo Regional Theatre.

The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mrs Louise Markus MP spoke during the Opening Ceremony and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, spoke during the first business session of the Congress.

The National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd), in his Report to Congress, highlighted the importance of:

- The future direction of the League;
- RSL support for Defence personnel;
- RSL engagement in the community.

A wreath laying ceremony was held at The Cenotaph in Victoria Park, and the business sessions of the Congress were held in the Dubbo RSL Club.



During the Congress, the following national officers were returned:

National President:

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)

Deputy National President:

Mr Don Rowe OAM

National Treasurer:

Mr David Sinclair

Overseas Guests attending the Congress were:

- Mr Barry Clark, National VP, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- Dr Stephen Clarke, CEO, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association

- Mr Glover Anderson, District President, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- AVM Ret. F X Soejitno, Head, Organisation Dept LVR Indonesia

Motions

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

- RSL Constitution
- Veterans' Affairs Matters
- Social Security and Tax
- Defence Services Homes
- The League
- ANZAC, Commemoration, Ceremonial and Memorials
- Defence and Foreign Affairs
- Defence Conditions of Service

Messages

Messages for a successful congress were received from the following overseas ex-service organisations:

- Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League
- The Royal British Legion
- Royal Canadian Legion
- The American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Veterans Federation of the Philippines

Functions

Congress delegates attended a Mayoral Reception, hosted by the Mayor of Dubbo, Councillor Alan Smith.

The National Congress Dinner was held in the Dubbo RSL Club.

Thank You

The general arrangements for the conduct of the National Congress are regularly organised by the National Headquarters staff in Canberra, but any successful Congress could not be achieved without the direct assistance of the host State. This year we also acknowledge the assistance of the Dubbo RSL Sub-Branch and Club. Our sincere thanks go to all involved. Their efforts were very much appreciated.

2011 National Congress

This Congress resolved that the 2011 National Congress would be held in Melbourne.

National Secretary's Report



Derek Robson
National Secretary

This year has again seen the League involved in every aspect of our Australian community. Through the network of State, District and Sub-Branched, and with appropriate guidance from the National Executive, the League has continued to support its Objects through enhanced support and service delivery to all serving and ex-serving members.

In particular, the League has made significant advances in how we support the serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force.

Since 1960, the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund has provided comfort packages to all serving members of the Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police serving overseas. Noting that the majority of these members are now serving on either six or eight month rotations, we provided packages in both May and November this year ensuring that every member received the benefit.

During this year it was decided that we should do more to support our wounded soldiers. Noting that the Chief of Army already provides a 'Simpson Pack', containing light clothing items such as a track suit, T-shirt, shorts, socks, cap, beanie and toiletry items to every wounded soldier in Afghanistan, the RSL recognised that the more seriously wounded clearly deserved some more specific support. In September it was decided to introduce the 'RSL Support Pack'. The Pack is intended for all ADF members seriously wounded on overseas service who require treatment through the NATO medical facility and later long term hospitalisation back in Australia. The RSL Support Pack consists of an airline style carry case, tote bag, throw rug, ANZAC Biscuit Tin, sports shirt and shorts, socks, notebook, pen, a broad range of toiletries such as toothbrush/paste, razors, shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, chapstick, deodorant, face cloth, combs, soap, wet pack, an i-Pod with embedded Australian music and a large Australian Flag. All of these items are intended to provide some dignity and comfort to our wounded and to

remind them that the thoughts of all Australians are with them through these most difficult and uncertain times.

We are all immensely proud to have been associated with this project.

Planning for the redevelopment of the National Office site continues. While we have had an approved plan for some time, but have not been able to attract interest in this very large complex, it is important that we continue to explore every possible option for the site. It is also important to note, that while I have persevered with the concept of redeveloping the RSL site for some years now, it has always been based on producing a new Headquarters for the League using the equity in our leased land, and at no time has the prospect of any League money being expended to produce a result, been entertained. As it stands now, the prospect of having a stand-alone National Office, with the rest of the site being developed with a mix of residential, commercial and retail, is firming as the preferred model to suit the present Canberra market. A start on the redevelopment cannot come soon enough as the present building is certainly showing its age and is not suited to our preferred business model. We do need more modern premises and an office layout which offers some certainty for the immediate future. In the past year I have asked that consideration might be given to the League advancing some funds to commence the stand-alone facility, with costs to be recouped and refunded when the remainder of the commercial development has been completed, but this has not gained any favour from within the League to date. I will continue with this project and I look forward to being able to report that we have commenced the building of premises which will enhance the standing of the RSL in the Nation's Capital, provide a workplace befitting my very dedicated staff who tend to all our needs, and be a fitting contribution to mark the Centenary of the RSL.

The Headquarters hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive in March, June and November; the Director's held meetings in Canberra and Castle Hill NSW in August and November, and the September National Congress was held in Dubbo NSW. In addition, the Director's have also continued to use the world wide web to advance the business of the League.

The National Advisory Committees continue to support the League at every level and they are

regularly called upon to provide well considered input to the prolific Parliamentary and Departmental Reviews. The considerable effort of all those involved in the National Advisory Committees for Veterans' Affairs, Defence, Defence Conditions of Service, Youth Heritage and Citizenship, Finance and ANZAC Awards, as well as our other advisory bodies, the Aged Care Forum, the National Membership and Marketing Forum, the National Clubs and Licensed Sub-Branched Forum, and the National Tribunal, is very well respected and much appreciated.

The RSL National website is regularly utilised by an expanding audience. The National President provides regular updates on all topical issues and

the site provides daily updated information or links to satisfy the majority of general requests.

The National Office is an important facility. The National Office staff are equally as important - and I take great pride in acknowledging each and every one of my employed and contracted staff for their ongoing commitment to the League and for their tremendous personal contribution and effort in support of our Objects. I hope that you are similarly impressed.

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 2010.

The net result of the year's operations on an accrual basis was a surplus of \$611,552 compared with a surplus of \$99,151 for the previous year. This result reflects, on the income side, the full year effect of the recent increase in capitation (membership) fees, payment of arrears in UNIBIC commissions and the National Headquarters share of the proceeds from the 'Raise A Glass' campaign.

After allowing for increased UNIBIC commission returns to State Branches and outgoings on the National Governance Review, expenditure for the National Headquarters increased by 8%, reflecting in part a higher level of representational and promotional activity particularly by the National President. Salaries and superannuation, together with provisions for long service leave and annual leave represented over 50% of total expenses.

A large part of the surplus was allocated to the Building Management, Maintenance and Investment Account that has been established, among other things, to meet expenditures relating to the redevelopment of the National Headquarters and its fit-out without impacting on the resources available to meet the demands arising from the Headquarter's ordinary activities

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

DAVID SINCLAIR
National Treasurer

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 2010. 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 8 years, 11 months	3	3
DJ McLachlan AO JP	Member National Executive 8 years, 1 month	3	3
W J Crews AO	Member National Executive 6 years, 9 months	3	1
D E J Rowe OAM	Member National Executive 6 years, 7 months	3	3
J H Statton OAM	Member National Executive 6 years	3	3
D A Fornby	Member National Executive 4 years, 1 month	3	3
W Kaine MBE	Member National Executive 1 year, 2 months	3	3
J King	Member National Executive 1 year, 1 month	3	3
K A Doolan AO	Member National Executive 9 months	3	2

The following changes of Directors occurred during the financial year:

Retiring Directors: W J Crews AO

Incoming Directors: K A Doolan AO

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 \$ 68,381 (2007:\$149,019).

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.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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: 31st August, 2010
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 2010 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: K. Hanna
Dated this 31st day of August 2010

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

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2010 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

K.D. Hanna
K.D. Hanna, Principal
Date: 25/8/10

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

STATEMENT of COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

2009	2010	Notes
\$	\$	
<u>908,299</u>	<u>1,635,727</u>	3a
Revenue from ordinary activities		
114,033	144,777	Administration expenses
448,486	437,802	Employee benefits expense
43,100	20,049	Occupancy expenses
38,442	44,398	Depreciation
18,977	24,621	Meeting and conference expenses
17,373	18,518	Insurance costs
16,783	14,761	Accounting and auditing fees
21,041	103,270	Commissions - to States for UNIBIC sales
-	64,624	National Governance Review
<u>90,913</u>	<u>151,355</u>	Other expenses from ordinary activities
<u>809,148</u>	<u>1,024,175</u>	3b
Total Expenses		
<u>99,151</u>	<u>611,552</u>	(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax
-	-	Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities
<u>99,151</u>	<u>611,552</u>	Net Surplus for Year

Statement of Changes in Equity

	\$
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>
Balance at 30th June, 2009	1,431,986
Surplus for Year 2010	<u>611,552</u>
Balance at 30th June, 2010	<u>2,043,538</u>

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2009 \$	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$	Notes	2010 \$
Current Assets						
Cash assets	381,495	4	891,760			
Receivables	97,890	5	66,014	800,644		1,456,823
Other	18,518	6	25,735	(637,784)		(906,681)
Inventory	18,186		11,587	43,034		28,903
Investments	455,985	7	473,084			
Total Current Assets	<u>972,074</u>		<u>1,468,181</u>	<u>205,894</u>		<u>579,046</u>
Non-Current Assets						
Property, plant and equipment	842,553	8	849,836	(83,997)		(94,226)
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>842,553</u>		<u>849,836</u>	<u>31,045</u>		<u>42,545</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,814,627</u>		<u>2,318,016</u>	<u>(52,952)</u>		<u>(51,681)</u>
Current Liabilities						
Payables	72,936	9	78,823			527,365
Provisions	159,705	10	192,537	684,537		837,480
Income received in advance	150,000		-			
Total Current Liabilities	<u>382,641</u>		<u>271,360</u>	<u>837,480</u>		<u>1,364,844</u>
Non-Current Liabilities						
Provisions	-		3,119			
Total Non-Current Liabilities	<u>-</u>		<u>3,119</u>			
Total Liabilities	<u>382,641</u>		<u>274,479</u>			
Net Assets	<u>1,431,986</u>		<u>2,043,538</u>			
Equity						
Retained earnings	1,431,986	13	2,043,538			
Total Equity	<u>1,431,986</u>		<u>2,043,538</u>			

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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 (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) 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 financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this report are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated. The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

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	77 years
Plant and Equipment	5-13 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

2009	NOTE	2010
\$		\$
	9 CURRENT PAYABLES	
61,196	Trade creditors	25,617
11,740	Other payables	53,206
<u>72,936</u>		<u>78,823</u>
	10 CURRENT PROVISIONS	
88,296	Annual leave (note 12.)	113,617
71,409	Long service leave (note 12.)	78,920
<u>159,705</u>		<u>192,537</u>
	11 NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS	
	Long service leave (note 12.)	<u>3,119</u>
	12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	
	The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:	
	Provisions for employee entitlements	
159,705	Current (note 10.)	192,537
	Non-current	<u>3,119</u>
<u>159,705</u>		<u>195,656</u>
	13 CHANGE IN EQUITY	
	Number of employees (on a full-time equivalent basis) at the end of the financial year	6
	RETAINED EARNINGS	
1,332,835	Balance at the beginning of financial year	1,431,986
99,151	Net Profit/(loss) attributable to members	<u>611,552</u>
<u>1,431,986</u>	Balance at the end of the financial year	<u>2,043,538</u>
	14 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS	
	Remuneration of the auditor for:	
3,300	Auditing the financial report	3,500
1,400	General accounting services	1,400
400	FBT return	<u>500</u>
<u>5,100</u>		<u>5,400</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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.

2009	Average Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets						
Cash	2.50%	403,835	-	-	500	403,835
Investments	3.75%	-	455,985	-	-	455,985
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	97,890	-	97,890
		403,835	455,985	97,890	-	957,710
Financial Liabilities						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%	-	-	-	72,936	72,936
Employee entitlements	0.00%	-	-	-	159,705	159,705
		-	-	-	232,641	232,641

2010

2010	Average Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets						
Cash	1 -6.8%	140,203	700,000	-	51,557	891,760
Investments	6.80%	-	473,084	-	-	473,084
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	-	-	-
		140,203	1,173,084	-	51,557	1,364,844
Financial Liabilities						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%	-	-	-	78,823	78,823
Employee entitlements	0.00%	-	-	-	195,656	195,656
		-	-	-	274,479	274,479

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.

HOUSTON & HANNA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

K D Hanna FCA (Principal)

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

I have audited the accompanying financial report comprising the statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income statement, statement of change in equity, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the directors' declaration for the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

Directors' responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosure in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of the material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

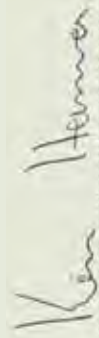
Independence

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

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30th June 2010 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.



Kim D. Hanna FCA

Registered Company Auditor

Dated: 1/9/10

Membership Report

Membership Statistics

Nationally RSL membership at the end of 2010 was:

State	Service Members	Life, Hon Life/Life Subscribers	Affiliates	Total Members (incl. Affiliates)	% of RSL	Women's Auxiliary Members
ACT	1,570	198	371	2139	1.16%	nil
NSW	41,760	7,541	Nil	49,301	26.74%	3,642
QLD	23,612	15,700	Nil	39,312	21.32%	513
SA/NT	7,036	944	5,180	13,160	7.14%	437
TAS	3,329	128	972	4,429	2.40%	345
VIC	33,189	697	30,604	65,446	35.51%	1,400
WA	8,601	224	1,746	10,571	5.73%	115
TOTAL	119,097	25,432	38,873	184,402	100.00%	6,452

2010 saw the introduction and enhancement of a number of new initiatives designed to boost our ranks and also improve retention and value for existing members.

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.

All State branches are now either linked to the Ambassador Discount Scheme or like QLD and WA offer their own state based member discount scheme, and all these are a significant additional value add to RSL membership. 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.

As a result of the rewrite of the National Membership By-Law, which is By-Law 1, in a more succinct and contemporary form in 2009, a

new simplified membership application form was also approved. Early in 2010, a completely rewritten Sub-Branch Membership Officer handbook, reflecting the new By-Law and giving guidance on recruiting and retention strategies was endorsed by National Executive, for distribution to State Branches and Sub-Branches.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, many of the 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 introduced the RSL Defence Sub-Branch, a web based Sub-Branch designed exclusively for serving ADF personnel. This was officially launched by the Vice Chief of Defence Force and the National President in April in Canberra. Its key elements are 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 they are 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 has 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, 2010 has been a year of consolidating some recent renewal work and introducing new membership opportunities. The focus for 2011 will be to continue to build on the initial strong start for the RSL Defence Sub-Branch and to bring to fruition a wider range of

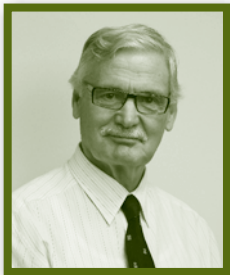
member benefits and revenue flow to the League through the work of the National Membership and Marketing Forum. Our first priority remains the involvement of currently serving ADF personnel in the life of the League, to ensure we remain capable of delivering our objectives of support to younger ex-serving 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



Doug Formby
State President

In writing my annual report for 2010 I will do more than focus on that particular year but reflect upon my time as State President. 2010 brought together much of what we set out to do after Roma 2006 and was the last full year in this position for which I write this Annual Report.

When first approached to nominate for election, knowing the background that led to that approach, I think some of the leadership at the time thought I would just provide a cloak of respectability behind which business as usual could continue. On the other hand, most of the membership wanted and expected changes, a view that I already had and was determined to deliver.

From the beginning I spoke and wrote of the need for change, saying and writing back in 2007:-

"One of the most devastating moments that come to an organisation, and people, of a certain age is the realisation that you have not changed, or not much, but the world has changed around you, and in a fashion less than sympathetic. It is not that you cannot do the things you always did, it is that no one wants you to. The world belongs to other people now."

We cannot just be content that the RSL serves our current personal needs, we have to plan for the needs of the future members of the League, and they are very different from we older ones. 2010 probably made plain for the first time, for many, just what the nature and significance of these changes were. The financial and administrative ones were obvious to see, but underlying it all was the need to challenge our long standing culture. This culture included an inward looking attitude, a reliance on a set of very prescriptive rules to answer all of our problems, a comfortable way of doing business that did not readily entertain new ideas, albeit well meaning volunteers trying to manage a rapidly growing business and office holders at all levels being secure in the knowledge that it was not the done thing to challenge and this in turn discouraged new and younger members the opportunity to take leadership positions. We have

made a dent in the culture but some of the negative parts remain and will need attention. I coined the phrase at the 2009 Congress of our membership being PSSS: 'Permanently Suspended in a State of Suspicion'. It remains partly true.

The start point was to introduce a paid professional staff to take over the role of long serving volunteers who were now faced with a multi-million dollar business and all of the demands and compliance that requires. This was not easy and the new CEO and his senior staff had to work hard to make it work and be accepted. For the most part they have withstood the barrage of criticism that came from some quarters. New ideas are often not welcome and the RSL is a very conservative organisation.

The results of this change speak for themselves.

Our finances are now strong. Our monies are properly accounted for, invested with the best of advice and our external audit record has been good. The Art Union remains strong but will gradually cease to be relied upon as our major source of funding as our Corporate Affairs team come into stride.

We have worked very hard, across the state, to improve and promote our image. I have been delighted to see, in so many areas, the local community recognise and appreciate the work the RSL does for them. At my level, we now have excellent working relationships with the media, State and Local Governments, many community organisations and the Brisbane Consular Corps.



ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Our responsibility to undertake commemoration of past sacrifice has been discharged brilliantly. All of our Sub-Branched have provided excellent commemorative services, the success being reflected in the large increases in attendance by the public. We have, in conjunction with DVA,

also introduced the very popular Indigenous Servicemen and Women commemoration services.



Indigenous Veterans Ceremony

We have made many endeavours to engage with the current serving members of the ADF. This effort has been enhanced by many Sub-Branches sending welfare parcels to Servicemen and Women in operational areas. The response has been wonderful and also resulted in many new members for the RSL.



A member of the ADF selling poppies on Remembrance Day.

Welfare has and always should be what we are all about. We have expanded our capacity to deliver it in many ways. The significant expansion of our Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare network throughout the State has provided better access for those in need to get the help they want. The delegation down to District and through them to the Sub-Branches, more authority to make on the spot decisions, backed by a considerable amount of money for Districts to spend on welfare and community support at the their own discretion has helped enormously. The number of hospital visits and visits to veterans at home has significantly increased.

We have put real meaning into helping youth. The RSL Youth Development Program, conducted with the assistance of Bond University, has been an outstanding success.



Major General Mick Slater DSC AM CSC, addresses RSL Youth at the Leadership Forum

In addition we now assist a group of Indigenous children to gain access to high level education opportunities in the city. The annual grants to Districts to support cadet movements in their areas has been well received.

Many of our RSL Clubs associated with a Sub-Branch have fallen on hard times. We have expended much treasure and time on some of them and had some success. We cannot save them all but it will not be for want of trying.

Two areas of concern were our administration of membership and the State Tribunal. Membership processes to the RSL has been like food in an old folks home, a constant source of discussion and often unhappiness. We have now introduced a new IT based membership system, that despite early teething problems has gained wide approval and is the way to go into the future. It should be noted that despite the administrative challenges the number of members in Queensland has increased. The State Tribunal has been restructured, given a new set of rules, and should deliver less controversy in future.

It is at the top leadership and in our necessary corporate governance that much change has been made. The old far too big State Council and its 16 committees have been brought down to a more appropriate size. More importantly the nature and agenda of the meetings are much more in line with their role. Micro-management is no longer the norm. Your District Presidents are now treated and act as Directors on a Board of a quite significant company. They are now subjected to regular, professional, board training. This does not take away from them their responsibility of representing the views of the membership who elected them to the State level. It does however call upon the membership to bear these changed responsibilities in mind when electing that level of leadership.

Clearly we have adopted corporate governance, not just talked about it. It is not a matter of choice but absolute necessity. There has been some talk of this being done at the expenses of our core business. This is nonsense. We are obliged by law to accord with the practice and compliance necessary for an organisation of our size in this day and age. More importantly, we need such a structure to gain, account for and distribute the resources necessary for our grass roots people to deliver the welfare needed.

If you are going to adopt corporate governance you have to do so completely, that includes the language and the rules. That is why our rules are being redrafted into appropriate corporate language and in accordance with our obligations. Our new constitution will speak of directors not councillors but it will not change their responsibilities to service the members in their district as they always have. We also have to take account of the requirements of the Australian Taxation Office and that is a cause for some delay.

So, we are different; in our structure, our mix of paid staff and volunteers, the demands on our leadership and being answerable to the law not just our RSL Rules, but, the reason for our very existence has not changed and that is to deliver, welfare, commemoration and support to the nation's youth.

As a principle, behind all of my thinking has been to try and stop us being Brisbane centric. Every District and Sub-Branch is different and should be allowed to pursue the work of the RSL as best suits their circumstances. Another is that instead of just parroting how important the Sub-Branches are we have sought to authorise, resource and recognise them in practical ways. We are not here to solve all of their problems, mostly of their own making anyway, but to create an overall climate in which they can prosper.

There remains much work to be done. Some of the initiatives will flow from the Futures Committee Report and seriously challenge past thinking. Having seen so much change accepted over these past four to five years I feel confident that the RSL in Queensland will take it on.

I shall finish my time as State President at the 2011 State Congress, I must express my sincere thanks for your support and the great work you do for the RSL. I particularly want to thank the CEO, his managers and the staff for the courage and initiatives they have shown in putting in place the changes we sought. It has been a privilege to be the State President of the RSL that is such a highly respected and acknowledged icon within our country.

We have a great past and a great future.

DOUG FORMBY AM
State President

New South Wales Branch Report

ANZAC House Refurbished

Significant improvements were made to ANZAC House during 2010, providing staff with a modern, efficient and more comfortable working environment. The renovations will ensure that members are offered a better service than ever.

A common theme of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice has been given to all meeting, interview and staff rooms, each of which has been named after a person, unit, defence asset or event. The 7th floor now houses offices for the State President and State Secretary and the State Council meeting room which has been named the Trooper Mark Donaldson VC Boardroom. Other meeting rooms have been named for Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean and Corporal Mathew Hopkins.

Commemorations and Memorials

ANZAC Day

State President Don Rowe described the turnout of 18,366 for the 2010 ANZAC Day March in Sydney as 'phenomenal', given the wet weather. It was also described by some participants as the best organised in 60 years. This was the first year when associations were asked to register with ANZAC House in order to take part, allowing March organisers to feed relevant information to those marching. Extra measures were also taken to ensure that estimated stepping off times were available to contingents, ensuring that senior veterans were not left waiting in assembly areas any longer than necessary.



Wet weather was no deterrent for the 18,000 veterans who marched in Sydney on ANZAC Day.

The media focus in 2010 was on younger veterans and the RSL executive contingent was honoured to have Trooper (now Corporal) Mark Donaldson VC march with them.

VP Day

The VP Day commemorations in 2010 held greater significance than usual as they marked the 65th anniversary.



Marking the 65th anniversary of VP Day, WWII nurses Una Keast (left) and Lorna Johnston were greeted warmly by Concord Hospital staff wearing wartime nursing uniforms.

The service at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, alongside Concord Repatriation General Hospital, attracted a very large number of veterans, friends and relatives. 95-year-old Lorna Johnston (formerly Lorna Whyte) was a special guest of the League – she is the last survivor of the six army nurses captured in Rabaul and taken to Japan, and flew from her home in Auckland, NZ, to take part in the ceremony.

Indigenous Veterans

The annual Indigenous Veterans' Commemoration service was held at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park on 28 May. More than 500 people attended to hear guest speaker Squadron Leader Lisa Jackson Pulver, a Wiradjuri woman and Professor in Public Health at the University of NSW.



Squadron Leader Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver (left) was guest speaker at the Indigenous Veterans Service at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Remembrance Day

The 10 Australians killed in Afghanistan during 2010 were given special mention in the Remembrance Day address at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, by Brigadier Alison Creagh. She recalled attending commemoration services during her own tours of duty in Afghanistan and the way in which personnel from many countries had stood alongside each other.

Membership

Once again membership fell during 2010, dropping below 50,000 for the first time since the end of WWII. At the end of December the NSW Branch had 49,301 members, a fall of 2,596 from 12 months earlier. The death rate among WWII veterans has accelerated the decline in membership: in 1980 there were 122,542 members, falling to 108,925 by 1990 and to 80,929 by 2000.

A concerted recruitment campaign among serving and recently retired ADF personnel has improved membership in the Sydney metropolitan area, where there are 139 sub-Branches and 26,500 members, an increase of 1,747 over the previous year. In the Country area there are 255 sub-branches and 19,537 members, a decline of 6,537 in 12 months. Almost 1100 members are unattached.

State Congress

National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan opened the 94th Annual State Congress on 25 May at the Rooty Hill RSL Club. Congress was also addressed by Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, and by NSW Premier Kristina Keneally who announced the formation of a NSW committee to organise commemorations in this State for the centenary of the Gallipoli landings in 2015.



A wreathlaying service before the opening of State Congress. From left, Rooty Hill Sub-Branch Secretary Alf Davey, National President Ken Doolan and NSW State President Don Rowe.

State Congress agreed to establish a committee of five members to seek submissions from sub-branches, District Councils and individuals and to "investigate a class of membership to enable sub-branches to continue RSL activity and commemoration for their community." As a result a recommendation that the State Branch amend its Constitution to allow affiliate members will be put before the 2011 Congress.

Overseas Visits

In September-October the State President, Mr Don Rowe, and a small number of teachers and officials, accompanied 12 students who had been awarded the NSW Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarships on a tour of the Western Front battlefields. Sites visited included Ypres, Passchendaele, the Somme, Villers-Bretonneux and the beaches which were used for the D-Day landings in Normandy in WWII.



NSW Premier's Scholarship winners wore WWI uniforms during their visit to Tyne Cot Block as part of a tour of the Western Front.

A second group of scholarship winners was taken to Korea and Japan, accompanied by officials including Metropolitan State Councillor Bob Durbin. This group visited sites associated with the Battles of Kapyong and Imjin River, and memorials in Seoul, Tokyo and the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Yokohama.

Scholarships and Awards

Sir Colin Hines Scholarship

Five scholarships were awarded in 2010 to help the children of Vietnam Veterans with their tertiary education. They went to Amy Jean Clark, Grayson Charles Cross, Tram Bao Truong Nguyen, Alexandra Elizabeth Claire Peters, and Charlotte Wilson.

FS Maher Memorial Scholarship

These scholarships assist in nurse training and education for those involved in caring for ex-

servicemen and women. Three were awarded in 2010, to Kimberly Rutar and Nicole Oakley from Concord Hospital, and Nicola Browning from Lady Davidson Private Hospital.

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. Eight scholarships were awarded in 2010.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The NSW recipients of the 31st ANZAC of the Year award for 2010 were Inspector Mark Carrick, Mr Justin Davies, Mr Like Patrick Geary, and a soldier known only as Sergeant 'S'.

Cadets of the Year

The NSW State Branch makes an award each year to the top cadet in each of the three services. The 2010 winners were CDTWO1 Brydie-Kate Cullen (Army Cadets), CDTLS Nicola Jennings (Navy Cadets) and CDTWOFF William Sayers (Air Force Cadets), who were due to be given berths on the training ship Young Endeavour in early 2011.

RSL Young Endeavour Youth Education Sponsorship

In 2006 State Council agreed to become a Community Sponsor for the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. The two people selected from the 2010 ballot were Michael Dareton (nominated Mosman RSL Sub-Branch) and Tyrell Finch (nominated Norfolk Island RSL Sub-Branch). Both were scheduled to sail on the Young Endeavour from Hobart to Devonport in January 2011.



The three Cadets of the Year and two RSL-sponsored youths chosen in 2009 were provided with berths on the Young Endeavour in early 2010.

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. The Governor of NSW, Prof. Marie Bashir, presented each winner with a certificate and a \$100 cheque at a ceremony at Government House on 29 October.

RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution

The RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution is a national leader in the provision of care and support to the veteran community and their dependants. The RSL WBI is identified increasingly as the primary support agency for those serving in the ADF, especially for those with operation deployment experience. Assistance includes advocacy, pension and welfare support, financial help with medical expenses, funeral expenses, utility accounts, residential relocation, repair costs, emergency accommodation and rent assistance.

Strong support during 2010 came from sub-branches, RSL Women's Auxiliaries, RSL and Service clubs and others whose welcome donations enable the RSL WBI to meet increasing demands on its services.

RSL Day Clubs

Day Clubs began in NSW in 1977 as a successful joint venture between the NSW Branch of the League and the DVA. There are now 71 RSL Day Clubs in the State, each sponsored by a sub-branch. New clubs this year opened included the 'Macarthur Gateway' club at Campbelltown, the 'Iluka Sandpipers' club at Iluka, the 'Aurora' club at Coonabarabran, and the re-establishment of the 'Walers' club at Richmond.

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.

The RSL appoints a State Co-ordinator, Mr Tom Barnsley, who works with three DVA Community Support Advisers to provide support, training and direction to the volunteers and RSL sub-branches.

Victorian Branch Report

2010 has been a year of continued achievement in the delivery of our welfare and veteran services and we continue to enjoy strong support from the public for our commemorative and educational objectives. At the same time we have continued to implement many of the changes identified in 2008/2009 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 Dependant Support Services

We continue to be well served by Jeff Jackson and his team of professional advocates who assist veterans and dependants 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 provides 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 continued development of an RSL presence on Defence bases with HMAS Cerberus and Puckapunyal being established or approved in 2009. This adds to our existing strong profile at RAAF East Sale and Bandiana. Jeff has continued to oversight the operation of the Bushfire Relief Fund which we established immediately after the Black Saturday fires to assist RSL members, staff and family affected. 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 2010. The Branch returned unused funds to those Branches and sub-branches that requested this once we consulted with them and the residual will be used for other RSL emergency relief, both within Victoria and for sister Branches. As 2010 drew to a close we were ironically now providing flood relief payments!

The introduction of e-learning modules for MRCA will also enable our RSL Advocates and many of our volunteer pension officers to get the skills they need to support our younger veterans. 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. In 2010 our Aged Care Co-ordinators or equivalent staff in the employ of larger licensed sub-branches, have continued to do fantastic work, mentored and supported by both Wendy and Jeff. Volunteer management in terms of handbooks, protocols, ID cards and the inevitable Government regulation continues to be co-ordinated for our sub-branches by ANZAC House. 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'lasselle, Wendy's PA, does great work in co-ordinating this effort with over 7,000 parcels being delivered in 2010.

Our relationship with Vasey RSL Care also continues to be a constructive and practical one in meeting veterans' needs in terms of aged care accommodation and services, with the League's ongoing mission and interests being represented on Vasey's Board of Management by Rob Webster, State Senior Vice President, and John Cullen, State Branch Honorary Treasurer.

Appeals

Our Appeals underpin much of our commitment to the veteran community, with resources generously donated by the Victorian public and 2010 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 2010. Using commercial partners to supplement our older veterans in CBD token/poppy sales was expanded beyond 2009 and was again very successful. A complete revamp of the range with new items such as wrist bands and decals to appeal to a younger demographic, has been progressively implemented in 2010 and we will further develop the synergies between marketing our Appeals and also 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

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, who ensure sub-branches are in accord with the Veterans Act. Bernard Churchill has continued to develop our property and legal support to sub-branches and Rob Gay in his new role as Financial Manager has provided an invaluable service in forensic accounting and general audit support to many sub-branches with difficult or complex financial problems through 2010. Bryan Arendse continues to provide rigour and oversight to both the Patriotic Funds area and the application and processing cycle of Government grants and has been joined in late 2010 by Tony Ruddel whose accounting and teaching skills will be developed in 2011 to provide a pro-active approach from the Branch to support sub-branches in their Funds Management. In 2010 the Branch staff worked closely with PKF, who were providing management consultancy to the National Headquarters, in identifying a hitherto untapped source of Volunteer Support Grants for our smaller traditional sub-branches. Many sub-branches across the nation benefitted from this and a total of 42 sub-branches in Victoria received grants and we hope to see this programme continue in 2011 with Branch assistance to the network in making applications. The Branch staff actively assist sub-branches, especially those licensed sub-branches with commercial activities, in their financial management and during 2010 the need for a pro-active approach in regard to this has become even more evident. We have also welcomed to the team Luke Gilholme, with extensive commercial and gaming experience in the club industry, both in Australia and overseas, and Luke is now providing accurate and real time performance data to all our licensed sub-branches to assist them in pre-empting cash flow issues and making sound management and operational decisions. The Quality Assurance Programme, overseen by Dennis Everitt, ensures that we certify and quantify the very significant veteran and broader community support that flows from the commercial activity of our licensed sub-branches. 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 continued to have 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 2010 by reduced patronage and cash flow and the demands 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 has been reflected in changes to By-law 11, the Corporate Governance guidance for licensed sub-branches, which has given greater guidance and direction in the responsibilities of committees, the interaction between the committee and management|staff, and the core obligations of sub-branch activity in supporting the veteran community.

Project 2012

In 2010 the Branch commercial and financial team worked hard on preparing the licensed sub-branch network for the changes to gaming arrangements in 2012. There were very significant meetings in the first half of 2010 by both the 2012 Steering Committee and the whole LSBA network to consider the options and factors involved in going with one provider or another – an enormous amount of planning, negotiation and consultation by Mark Johnson and Mark Sherlock, in support of the State President went into this. An outcome which promises to be an extremely positive one for the whole network, and for the future of the Branch as a whole was signed off by the LSBA Sub-Branches on 30th June 2010 which sees us partnering with TabCorp Gaming Services (TGS) for ten years from 2012 with a significant revamp of licensed sub-branch gaming areas as part of the transition period leading into August 2012.

Mark Johnson also oversighted the RSL Victorian Branch submission to the 2012 Productivity Commission Inquiry and Report into Gaming which gave us important profile as best practice operators in this area and much insight into future trends in the industry. The fact that our commercial operations are simply a means to an end and revenue is generated responsibly ultimately goes back to members and the community is well understood and we are confident TGS and the Government regulatory bodies will in their respective domains support the League in making this strategic decision a success in Victoria.

Brian Cairns, as the Licensed Sub-Branch Executive Officer/Chief Operations Officer has focused on monitoring and enhancing the

operational and commercial performance of all our 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. In the latter part of 2010, after the 30th June decision, the senior Finance and Commercial staff conducted, with the State President, a review with every licensed sub-branch as part of an extensive strategic analysis of what each sub-branch needs in terms of transitioning to the 2012 arrangement and beyond. This was a central part of the Branch supporting the LSB network as we approach 2012 and builds on the work done with sub-branches in 2009 on financing gaming machine entitlements. John Mackay and his successor Graham Keating as Chairmen of the Licensed Sub-Branch Association have worked closely with Mark Johnson, Mark Sherlock and Brian Cairns 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 presented at a Gala Dinner at the Melbourne Town Hall in November marking the 10th Anniversary of the Awards and this was wonderfully organised by Liz Guthrie, our Marketing and Events Manager. Some of the notable winners this year at a splendid evening were Greensborough, Bairnsdale, Seaford and Morwell Sub-Branches. The focus on volunteers and meeting our welfare objective was again to the fore and this was also reflected in the fourth edition of our Community Benefits statement 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 2010 has remained on building Service member numbers, culminating in an incentive campaign to retain existing members and attract new ones and the successful launch of the online RSL Defence Sub-Branch, a national initiative to gain more serving ADF members, and administered by the Victorian Branch. 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 synergies between boosted member numbers and the lifeblood of volunteers for appeals work,

together with the links between marketing our appeal work and recruiting opportunities, has seen Peter Smith take Membership under his supervision, though the CEO remains involved, especially through his national role in chairing the Membership and Marketing Forum. We also welcomed Sharen Peart to the team this year, who with her extensive Army personnel management background now has the administration of the Defence Sub-Branch as a key priority. Elizabeth Mansfield has provided excellent part time support to Geraldine Goodlet in dealing with the normal high tempo of the department, especially in the period immediately after Steve Partridge's departure, who went with our best wishes to be closer to family in Queensland.

The distribution of a completely re-written Membership Handbook with guidance for sub-branch membership officers at the start of 2010 also stimulated sub-branches to try new methods of attracting younger members and our first Branch Open Day in February 2010 will certainly be conducted again in 2011; not just from a membership recruiting perspective, but also to raise local communities' awareness of the work of the League and the profile of their local sub-branch.

Sadly, 2010 has seen many long serving RSL members, especially from the WW2 generation, leave us but our membership efforts are keeping overall numbers steady and most importantly a significant number of younger ex-service and currently serving people are joining our ranks. At December 2010, membership of the Victorian Branch stood at:

Service Members	33,189
Life Members	697
Life Subscribers	956
Affiliates	30,604
 Total	 65,446

Commemorative Activities

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day 2010 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 the Wesley Church 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. 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. Regrettably a vehicle accident involving our Ceylonese WW2 Veterans marred the closing stages of the March, but thankfully no one was critically injured though the incident will be one aspect of several that will see us review the use of vehicles and the need for all our WW2 participants to ride in vehicles in 2011.

The AFL's Essendon vs Collingwood ANZAC Day game was again a sell out crowd of almost 100,000, with the State President presenting the winning trophy to Collingwood – a popular result with the massive crowd. Fortunately the weather was kind to the Commemorative Services and the March this year.



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 Korean War with Korean Veterans well represented in the motorcade. Veterans were again guests of the AFL for lunch and the match.



ADF School of Catering staff and trainees who provided the Gunfire Breakfast.

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.

Remembrance Day

The RSL again conducted the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service at the Springvale War Cemetery with the Chief of Army's representative MAJGEN John Calagari 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 11th November, presided over by the State 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. In all our commemorative endeavours, as in so much else, Rosemary Kennedy EA to the State President, Jude Beshears our General Office Manager and Diana David, PA to the CEO do wonderful and sustained work, supporting not just the Branch Headquarters but the whole sub-branch network.

Womens Auxiliaries

Our Womens Council and the 99 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 reforms 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 Comfort Packs that the RSL at the national level now sends to seriously wounded soldiers while in hospital overseas, is a wonderful gesture and a real indication of the ongoing relevance and importance of our auxiliaries in the RSL's mission.

State Conference 2010

The 2010 State Conference was held at Caulfield Racecourse on 7th-8th July and was officially opened by Mr Andrew Bolt who gave a well received and thought provoking address and he was joined by the Minister for Veterans Affairs Alan Griffin, Shadow Minister Louise Markus and in the Veterans portfolio at the State level, Tony Robinson.

The Conference had the benefit of a number of topical presentations ranging from Veterans Heritage and Memorabilia to a comprehensive

overview of the challenges facing the veteran community from the new National President.



Back row : Mr Hugh Delahunty MP, Mr Ian Campbell PSM, Mr John Cullen, Mr Rob Webster, Mr Michael Annett CSC.
Front row : The Hon Louise Markus MP, The Hon Alan Griffin MP, MAJGEN David McLachlan AO (Retd), RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd), The Hon Tony Robinson MP, Mr Andrew Bolt.

These presentations generated some good questions from delegates 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 providing more direction to regional forums on their tasks and their local structure. A total of 52 remits were discussed, ranging from veterans affairs and welfare matters to medical entitlements and municipal concessions on rates and utilities for veterans and widows. The Conference saw the results of League and ANZAC Award nominations from Victoria and the outcomes of our first statewide ballot for all State Executive positions, bringing to fruition the changes approved at the 2009 Conference. There was no change to the Branch Officer positions, with the State President elected unopposed for another term. 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.

ANZAC House Volunteers

Our Librarian Fred Pratt has done a great job in 2010 continuing to archive and catalogue 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 and his support to the State President in his work with the Blamey Trust is also very

important. 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.

We continue to work on developing more assistance and guidance to sub-branches with their memorabilia collections and in 2010 we have gained another very capable volunteer to assist in this area with Hugh Morrison. Our initial Veterans Heritage Workshop, a result of increasing support from the Victorian Government's Veteran Unit and Museums Victoria, promises a range of expertise and technical support we can further develop and provide in 2011.

Bruce Shelton and Rob Ferguson continue to provide good support in the weapons collections area to our sub-branch network. We also host a large number of other ex-Service Organisations at ANZAC House for their meetings and gatherings and Steve Nativo supports all this activity in his usual quiet and effective style.

Cadet Achievement Awards and Portsea Summer Camp

Two great examples of our delivery of RSL community objectives during the year remain 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 others are offered the opportunity to attend a leadership and teamwork activity week at the Lord Somers Camp on the Mornington Peninsula.

The successful Cadets in 2010 were:

Navy	Kirsty Reaks
Army	Mathew Haines
Air Force	Tom Howard

with the Young Endeavour prize winner being Kirsty Reaks.

This year 79 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 and has been added to the portfolio of responsibilities for the RSL Youth and Community Sub-Committee chaired by David Lewien. However the day to day co-ordination of this activity falls to Julie Lindsay our front entrance receptionist and she has done a wonderful job in her first year in this role.

Conclusion

The Victorian Branch looks forward to 2011 with confidence, having made some important strategic decisions about our future in a cohesive and League minded way, and also successfully supported, on behalf of the League nationally, some very important initiatives. We continue as a Branch to maintain our core welfare, commemorative and educational objectives in a contemporary and innovative fashion.

South Australian Branch Report



Jock Statton
State President

I see 2010 as a year of building for the future of the Returned & Service League of Australia in South Australia, Northern Territory and Broken Hill. This is evident in several projects undertaken by the SA Branch.

The State Board and Council tasked the CEO, Sam Jackman, to restructure the operation of management and make the workings of the SA Branch more streamlined in conducting its business. Over the last few years it has been harder to get representatives from Districts to fill vacant positions on the State Board and Council and this left some sub-branches without any representation at State Branch. In September the State Board and Council accepted recommendations to disband the State Board and Council in its present form and present to a Special General Meeting in April 2011 a new Constitution: a bold step to ensure the RSL in South Australia operated in a more streamline manner and conducted the future business more professionally.

On visits to sub-branches, both country and metropolitan, we see a need to plan for the future, short and long term. The decisions are not always easy; we need to make sure there is an RSL for those ADF members serving now and in the future. There are negotiations with several sub-branches and Councils to work on joint ventures which would benefit both groups. The Unattached Sub-Branch members have all been written to with a view to forming a new Adelaide Sub-Branch, giving these members more involvement in the RSL.

RSL SA is looking at new sub-branch developments in the inner city suburbs of Norwood, Prospect and West Torrens and new regional sub-branches in the Victor Harbor and Gawler areas. These developments will allow the RSL in SA to provide a more modern image to entice younger Service members and the community into the RSL. With the redeployment of 7RAR to the northern suburbs of Adelaide there has been an increase in the membership of some of our sub-branches, and we will look at providing

more modern facilities in those areas to cater for the new generations.

As part of planning for the future, the RSL is assisted by sponsorship by businesses and organisations, these being HostPlus, Defence Health, The City of West Torrens, Nova Systems, The City of Campbelltown, Candetti Constructions and Defcredit. The State Government this year assisted the RSL with \$100,000 which is used for Commemorative activities, ANZAC and Remembrance Day. The support of these organisations and businesses is greatly appreciated for the future of the RSL in SA.

Serving members of the ADF have been offered their first 12 months membership of the RSL free with quite a good uptake by members. This is one way of making sure the RSL is relevant to serving members and also encouraging members to keep the tradition alive.

Aged Care

The Poppy Day Trust (PDT) started negotiations with the War Veterans' Home Myrtle Bank, Board of Directors to manage all facilities the PDT currently own or have involvement with; this includes the Darby & Joan Cottages. At the same time residents of the Cottages at Semaphore were assisted in relocating to accommodation of their choice. This was necessary as the conditions of the premises had deteriorated to the extent that 2 units had not been re-let for over 12 months and were not of a condition suitable for our veterans.

Veterans Race Day

Another successful Veterans Race Day was held at the Balaklava Racing Club before ANZAC Day, this is a joint day with the Totally & Permanent Incapacitated Association (TPI). Besides being a day when members from different sub-branches have an opportunity to catch up with each other, the financial support the Balaklava Racing Club gives to both organisations is much appreciated.

'Raise a Glass' Campaign

VB's Raise a Glass Campaign run over the 2010 ANZAC period raised over \$1.2m nationally. These funds are shared equally between the RSL and Legacy. RSL SA funds received have been used to help sponsor the Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA Branch) (RARA) project

“Trojans’ Trek” and Foundation Daw Park presentation of Research Papers. The RSL has covered any shortfall the RARA had to enable the 2009 and 2010 Trojans’ Trek to be held.



Prizes and Awards



For some time medals for ANZAC Day Games have been awarded, the most prominent being the Peter Badcoe VC Medal awarded to the AFL player whose conduct and play best exemplifies the ANZAC spirit. Several sub-branches have awarded medals in their local leagues.

In 2010 the RSL, Netball SA, South Australian Community Football League and the Building Communities Division of the Attorney-General's Department ran a successful pilot program in 10 Leagues of Football and Netball. The Vivian Bullwinkel Medal was awarded to the netball player in the Trans-Tasman match between the Thunderbirds and a New Zealand team.



ANZAC Spirit School Prize

Another successful Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize was held in 2010. This saw 6 High School students being escorted on a tour of the Western Front. The 2010 winners were Renae Farr - Loxton High School, Sean Lloyd - Brighton Secondary School, Jack Jercic - Christian Brothers College, Brigid O'Farrell - St Ignatius College, Shane Rosenzweig - Faith Lutheran College and Chloe Searles - Loxton High School. The tour group included Mr. Hieu Van Lee AO and Mrs. Lan Lee, teachers Susan Howlett Mitcham Girls' High School, John Griffen Willunga High School and RSL representative John Spencer OAM RFD.

State Branch supplies the students and teachers with their blazers, ties and waterproof jackets, with some sub-branches also assisting students with spending money.

Cadet of the Year

Again the Cadet of the Year program was successful with 5 Cadets being escorted to Canberra for Remembrance Day. This year Northern Territory had 2 Cadets involved and the trip was sponsored by the Central Council of RSL Women's Auxiliaries. The program allows a Cadet from each Service to be chosen as the Cadet of the Year and represent their Cadet Service. The Cadets are great Ambassadors for their Units.



RSL National Secretary, Mr Derek Robson AM, with the 2010 Cadets of the Year.

ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil

The RSL ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil, conducted annually at the South Australian War Memorial, North Terrace, this year received the Community Event of the Year awarded by the Adelaide City Council to acknowledge the most outstanding community event in the City of Adelaide. RSL ANZAC Youth Vigils are now also conducted at Blackwood, Edwardstown, Morphett Vale, Tennant Creek and Whyalla.

RSL AFOF

RSL National has, through the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (RSL AFOF), seen the need to provide support to ADF members who require extensive periods of hospitalisation. To this end, AFOF is able to provide the 'RSL Support Pack' to ADF members who are seriously wounded and require treatment through the NATO medical facilities in Germany. SA Branch assists in funding these packs.

JOCK STATTON OAM
State President

Western Australia Branch Report

The year under review marks the end of the second year of the current triennium. The Executive Team elected into Office has been active in building on the solid foundations laid by previous administrations.

It has been an interesting and challenging task with some minor administrative and operational changes being made to ensure compliance with various Commonwealth and State Acts to enhance the accountability protocols required by the organisation. These changes have been necessary and will be put into effect at every level of our operations.

While our organisational structure has proved to be sound, there were indications that with our unprecedented growth, particularly in the Aged Care Industry and the possible adverse impact of the Global Financial Crisis on our operations, we could have been exposed to risks that would threaten our financial stability. Fortunately, with the expertise available to us, we were able to emerge relatively unscarred from the financial crisis that impacted on others who had financial exposure to the world's money markets.

Defence & Conditions of Service

In close association with all branches of the Armed Services, a matrix has been prepared that will assist servicemen and women in their transition from Service life to the civilian environment. This document has been refined over several years and has been placed before the Services for use in transition management. User trials are progressing and hopefully the initiative will be seen as a genuine attempt to cater for those exiting the service.

Membership and Youth Affairs

Membership over the 2010 year remained stable at 10,571 including affiliates.

A membership promotional circular has been developed and following recently completed user trials will be forwarded to sub-branches offering assistance in organising membership drives in their various regions. While there will be a focus on attracting ex-service members there will be wide promulgation of the new RSL National initiative of a Virtual Sub-Branch that will cater for those potential members who are already in the Australian Defence Forces.

The annual RSL 'Spirit of ANZAC' Award sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital was awarded to the following cadets:

CDT PO Aidan Gallagher,
CDT SSGT Kirsty Roberts and
CDT SGT Alex Torres.

The Award was a voyage on the Sail Training Ship LEEUWIN.

The Cadet Efficiency Trophy is open to all Service Cadet Units in WA and is jointly sponsored by the RSL and the Australian Defence Credit Union. The Award is to the most efficient Cadet Unit as judged by Cadet Headquarters from set criteria. The Award carries a cash prize of \$1,000.00, a Perpetual Shield and an Annual Trophy Plaque.

The 2010 winners were:

- 712 SQU MIDLAND
- 50 ACU MIDLAND
- TS CANNING

Marketing

Our marketing strategies as developed as part of the Corporate Plan have assisted the State Branch in raising the profile of the RSL with the public, younger Australians and RSL members.

Sponsored services are available to members and their families through SmartClub, with introductions to service providers in financial planning, funeral arrangements, legal and real estate settlement matters.

The RSL has achieved significant exposure to both members and the public through the appearance of guest speakers from sub-branches and Unit and Kindred associations on a Perth based community radio station - Capital Radio - 101.7FM.

Pension, Advocacy and Welfare Committee

The Committee has considered issues related to military superannuation and indexation as well as medical and pharmaceuticals benefits. Representations have been made to the National Veterans' Affairs Committee and these items have been progressed to Government for resolution. With a restructure of this division at the National Level, States are now able to progress initiatives

to the relevant body on a quarterly basis rather than the previously dictated annual communication cycle.

Advocacy is an important service provided by the League to all service and ex-service personnel irrespective of whether they are a member of the RSL or not. The service being provided is ongoing and demanding and we are seeing more and more veterans being referred for submission of claims.

Assisting veterans and their dependants maintain their quality of life and dignity by offering practical, social and financial assistance is a feature of RSL Welfare. With the assistance of a few hard working Welfare Volunteers, Hospital Visitors and, of course, the Sub-Branch Welfare Officers this is being achieved.

Many veterans live on a limited fixed income and can manage quite well until an unexpected expense arrives. We have recently experienced a spike in the number of veterans and their dependants seeking assistance from RSL Welfare for the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and overdue utility bills.

The Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund assists veterans in need of high cost items and essential services. The Trust Fund currently provides a monthly grant to 31 veterans or widows experiencing ongoing hardship.

During the Christmas Break (2010) an extraordinary meeting of the Trustees was called in response to the Toodyay bushfires with \$30,000 being distributed to veterans to support them in rebuilding their lives.



Just some of the goods donated to assist our Toodyay veterans

During the year (2010) it became evident that the facilities required for our Pension, Advocacy and Welfare Services were inadequate. To improve the image of that section of our operations and provide more functional areas, premises opposite

ANZAC House were rented and furnished to an operationally efficient standard to deal with veterans seeking assistance from our organisation and those we represent.

We are indebted to DVA for the funding assistance we receive through the BEST allocations and for their assistance in funding to attend conferences. The information derived from attendance at these conferences is invaluable.

Administration Services

With the completion of work on the Archive Room, facilitated by the generous support of the ANZAC Day Small Grants Scheme and Lotterywest, we have begun work on a new project to fill in the gaps of the collection and to improve access to our archive collection.



The project is the 'RSL Living History' Project and will focus on the history of the sub-branches of the League throughout Western Australia. Sponsored by Lotterywest, the project is steered by a committee made up of representatives from the Battye Library, the Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust, Curtin University, Friends of the Battye, the History Council of WA and the Aviation Museum Bullcreek.

Running the project, we have an Archivist and a Records Officer who will be travelling to the sub-branches conducting oral histories and digitising content such as photographs of sub-branch events, members and buildings, correspondence, minutes and other documents that provide information about the history of the sub-branch. The project will run over the next three years with the content collected going into an online exhibition that will be freely available via our webpage. Our Records Officer will also be focussing on providing advice to the sub-branches in managing their records going into the future which will serve to support the archival material.

Included in the project will be the microfilming and digitising of the WA Branch member publication, 'The Listening Post' which dates back to December 1920. The microfilming of 'The Listening Post' will be done by the State Library with the microfilm being provided to us to digitise in-house. 'The Listening Post' is a valuable source of information about the League here in Western Australia and through digitising we will be improving access.

As part of the recently held Perth Heritage Days, ANZAC House was opened to the public on the weekend of the 13th and 14th of November 2010. Working with the WA Army Museum, RAAF, RAN, and Cadet groups, the WA Branch put together an event to celebrate both WA's military heritage and the history of the League in Western Australia. The event featured a display of military vehicles, talks focussing on WA's military heritage and the launch of the 'RSL Living History' Project. The Club was open over the weekend in what was a successful event run by the City of Perth.

You can follow the progress of the 'RSL Living History' Project via our blog at <http://rslcentenary.blogspot.com/>.

ANZAC House & Club Facility Report

Our principal yearly event, the commemoration of ANZAC Day always provides the Club with a challenge in catering to the crowds that attend on that day – both from the ex-service community and from a wider group comprising relatives and friends that attend to honour the spirit of ANZAC on the day. The 2010 celebrations were very successful – with continuous service from the early start of the 'Gunfire Breakfast' right through the day to the Club closing time being conducted without any undue delays or service hitches.



ANZAC House staff before the Gunfire Breakfast rush

One of the highlights of the year has been the collaboration of the ANZAC Club with the 'Hospitality Group Training' (HGT) Organisation. HGT is a not-for-profit cooperative of hospitality business. It exists solely for the training and development of young people in hospitality skills – and provides a range of employment and training opportunities for young Australians in cooking apprenticeships and hospitality traineeships. The training of young chefs and hospitality professionals is vital to the future of the hospitality industry.

The forecasts for labour shortages of skilled professionals in future are very real, and even today there are significant capacity restraints in many projects and enterprises because of this. If

in future we wish to have the ability to employ someone like a chef, we must now play a role in developing them today. The ANZAC Club now participates in this by employing a 1st year apprentice on rotation with HGT each year. This provides the Club with the kitchen labour we require at no additional cost – while also assisting in developing youth in apprenticeships. This is entirely consistent with the aims and ambitions of the League in relation to developing youth. Certainly from the perspective of HGT this small club is punching well above its weight category in helping to develop future chefs.

Corporate Alliances

We are most grateful of our association with our corporate alliances. The support we receive from Purslowe & Chipper Funerals, Hollywood Private Hospital, Friendlies Chemists, Havilah Legal, Cash & Carry, WA Women's Auxiliary and SNAP Print has enabled RSL to interface with the corporate world where RSL profile and image is enhanced. The commercial benefit to our members through our Membership Card Scheme is popular and well supported with advantage to the business and the members and their families.

The close alliance we have with our supporters goes beyond member services, as our connections have been positive in growing the profile of the association as well as providing expertise in the business operations of the League.

Sub-Branches

Several Sub-Branches were placed under State Branch Administration while problems were resolved and governance issues settled. As sub-branches enter into commercial operations there becomes a need to ensure ventures undertaken have a sound business base. Protocols are being established to ensure those Sub-Branches that need to engage in business activities are compliant with association and business rules and have the necessary expertise to begin, develop, grow and operate the business.

There is a network of 131 sub-branches in Western Australia with approximately half operating in the country areas. In recent times it has been identified that many smaller country sub-branches are not viable and a review of our sub-branch structure was overdue. Proposals are in hand to restructure the WA Branch to make it more viable but at the same time to ensure we do not cast aside our heritage. This challenge will be

part of a review of our organisational structure that is planned for completion in mid 2011.

As a state-wide organisation with seven main geographic locations the following is a brief outline of highlights from the regions:

Pilbara Kimberley

- The celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Broome Sub-Branch;
- The presentation of a Charter to Halls Creek Sub-Branch;
- Progress on the building of new clubrooms for Port Hedland Sub-Branch.

Mid West

- The restoration of Birdwood House as clubrooms for The City of Geraldton Sub-Branch;
- The increased attendances at ANZAC Day Commemorative Services;
- The Sub-Branch involvement in Honouring Indigenous War Graves.

Avon

- The RSL support to victims of the Toodyay Bushfires;
- The support given to small struggling sub-branches by neighbouring strong sub-branches;
- The commitment by members to involve young people in activities.

Esperance-Goldfields

- All sub-branches reported increased attendance at Commemorative Services;
- Business and community support is assisting in the development of sub-branches;
- Preservation of items from the Goldfields War Museum currently being negotiated.

Great Southern

- Planning for ANZAC Commemorative Activities 2015 in progress;
- Mount Barker Sub-Branch has moved into its new premises;
- Walpole Sub-Branch presented with its Charter.

Upper South West (Including Perth Metro Area)

- Increase in the number of veterans seeking assistance in pension applications;
- Commemorative Services continue to attract crowds in increasing numbers;
- Several sub-branches will shortly receive their 90th Anniversary Certificates.

Lower South West

- Donnybrook Sub-Branch received its 90th Anniversary Certificate;
- Men-in-Sheds prospering with a focus on interacting with youth;

- Men's Health is a priority project for Donnybrook and other district sub-branches.

Congress 2010

Congress 2010 was the first year of the new format Congress. The focus of Congress was that of an Annual General Meeting where business transacted focussed on matters relevant to the administration of the Association. This year it was restricted to presentation of the Annual Report, adoption of the Annual Financial Statement and the consideration of Constitutional amendments.

The usual business of a series of motions on a range of social and veteran issues was taken from the Agenda and such items were dealt with during the course of the year. This resulted in matters being dealt with as they rose and not accumulated for a year before being actioned.

This has streamlined the process of dealing with matters and facilitated a speedy result to issues under consideration.

In addition to the business component of the proceedings, there was also time to have presentations from our Minister and National Officers as well as a range of specialty presentations.



Our 2010 Meritorious and Life Membership awardees

National RSL

During the year under review the State President, State Vice President and Director of Veteran Affairs represented the State Branch at National Executive and other National Committee Meetings. These meetings provided a useful forum for debate on issues affecting the operation of the League and the welfare of veterans. All meetings were conducted to a high professional standard and invariably set the scene that translated to enhanced benefits to all veterans.

On behalf of the State Branch and the veteran community in Western Australia, we pledge our

support to RADM Doolan and wish him well during his term as National President.

State Branch

Our sub-branch structure has stood the test of time and has served the League well as an organisation where 'grass roots' participation in decision-making is essential. Unfortunately, some sub-branches have become ineffective in their operation due to reduced numbers and location. There are many sub-branches, mainly in country towns, that were once thriving groups but with population shift and other economic reasons these are now reduced to groups that serve to 'keep the flag flying' for ceremonial occasions. sub-branches of two or three members are not viable and we need to develop a structure that will retain members and provide a forum to look after the interests of the veteran community.

That challenge will be the focus of a searching review of the structure of the Branch to make each sub-branch an entity that will be viable and have its members contribute to the governance of the organisation.

With the Centenary of ANZAC on the horizon, it is expected that there will be a heightened interest in RSL affairs and this will attract both Service Members and Affiliates.

We expect that with such events and initiatives, we will at least retain our current register of sub-branches and hopefully build a stronger and better profile of RSL in the local community.

The Way Ahead

The future will present us with many challenges; however, we must at all times remain focussed on our core business and not be side tracked on other less important functions.

Priority initiatives will be:

- Continue to implement our Corporate Plan;
- Continuation of strong alliances with supporters and corporate entities;
- Support sub-branch operations through regular visits and training modules;
- Prepare for the Commemorative activities associated with the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landing; and
- An enhancement of our leadership role in the Service and ex-service communities.

Acknowledgments

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

Without specifically mentioning any particular staff member, I can acknowledge them as 'The Team', the volunteers value your support and professionalism as does the service and ex-service community.

Mention must also be made of the contribution made by the Department of Veterans' Affairs staff for their work in the veteran community. The Secretary to the Department, Mr Ian Campbell and WA Deputy Commissioner, Russell McLaughlan, serve us well and we value their willingness to listen to us. Finally, the Branch 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.

Sadly, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC will complete his term of Office as Governor on 30 April, 2011 – a few days after his last official function – ANZAC Day. We thank him for his support to RSL and the veteran community and wish him and Mrs Michael our very best wishes for the future.

We have also learned that WA's Deputy Commissioner, Russell McLaughlan, will retire in late March 2011.

His support has been unequalled and we, similarly, wish him a long and happy retirement.

WILLIAM E. GAYNOR OAM RFD
State President

Tasmanian Branch Report



William (Bill) Kaine MBE
State President

2010 was a huge year administratively for the RSL in Tasmania as we continued with the exercise of having all our sub-branches adopt a standard sub-branch Constitution and also the merging of many of our RSL Sub Branches with RSL Clubs and Ex-Servicemen's Clubs. During the merger negotiations the members of the sub-branches and clubs could see a positive future and benefits of coming together under the League 'umbrella'. It has been a long process with a number of issues being sorted out along the way, including the ownership of sub-branch properties, the raising of property Deeds of Trust and the inclusion of all that information into a League Property Register which for what is probably the first time, is correct and up to date. It is anticipated that the exercise will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2011.

Pensions and Welfare Support

We continue to be well served by our Pensions and Welfare Officers who assist veterans and dependants around the state with DVA related claims and entitlements. We acknowledge the excellent work done by our level four pensions officers and advocates when assisting their clients through the review process or Administrative Appeals Tribunals. Their overall outcomes are very positive.

We have five Veterans' Information and Support Centres around the State which are manned by TIP trained volunteers from the RSL, VVAA, RAAF Association, Naval Association and the National Servicemen's Association. Those five ESO's form the BEST – Joint Venture Tasmania and all work closely together to deliver the best possible outcomes to our members and their dependants. We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work done by the TIP trainers.

Membership

As a State with only a very small number of permanent Defence Force members and with the majority of Defence positions being staffed by Reservists it is not easy to expand our

membership base from uniformed personnel. We do, however, have a good relationship with the Defence community who always support us with our commemorative activities around the state. We are making concerted efforts to gain the membership of the younger Defence personnel. We anticipate that during 2011 our membership numbers will continue to grow as a result of the mergers between our sub-branches and clubs, where many former social members are being encouraged to join as Affiliate members.

State Congress 2010 – George Town



State Congress was held at the George Town Memorial Hall over 14-15 May 2010. The Congress was officially opened by RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd). This was the National President's first State Congress since he came to office, and he has written and extended his thanks to all concerned during his visit for the hospitality he and Elaine received whilst on the island.

Other official guests included Mr Don Rowe OAM, Deputy National President and State President RSL (NSW), Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd), State President RSL (Victoria), the Hon Alan Griffin MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mrs Louise Markus MP, Mr Ian Campbell, Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs, Ms Jan Hyde, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs - Tasmania and Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO (Retd), Repatriation Commissioner. There were also representatives from the Repatriation Medical Authority, and the Veterans' Review Board. We wished Brigadier Rolfe all the best in his retirement as this was his last Tasmanian State Congress.

During the Official Opening the National President presented Life Memberships of the League to the following members: Mr Michael Johnston

(Claremont), Mr Geoff Mainwaring (Ulverstone), and Mr William (Bill) Kaine MBE (Ulverstone).

Posthumous Life Membership was awarded to Mr Paul Burley (deceased) of Smithton. Paul passed away in March this year and his award was accepted on behalf of the family by Mr John Oldaker, President of the Smithton Sub-Branch. Life Memberships were also awarded this year to Mr Danny Spurr (Swansea) and Mr Don Ryan (Lenah Valley). Danny's award was presented in late April at the Swansea Sub-Branch by the outgoing Deputy State President, Mr David Moles DFM, and Don was presented with his award at the Lenah Valley Sub-Branch in early June by the newly elected Deputy State President, Mr Chris Oakes.

During the Congress delegates were addressed by Mr Ron Coxon OAM, National President, Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia and Mr Phil Pyke, State President, Australian Peacekeepers Peacemakers Association of Australia – Tasmania Branch. During their respective addresses both Presidents were very supportive of the League.

There were very few Veterans' Affairs motions this year as those issues are now progressed as they arise throughout the year to the National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC). The Congress Dinner was a gala event and congratulations must go to the George Town Sub-Branch for a wonderful evening of magnificent food, wine, music and dancing.

Commemorations

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day continues to draw increasing interest especially from the young with many of our sub-branches reporting an increase in attendance at both their Dawn Services and their main Services. We were again very well supported by Defence who provided military support all over the State. In 2010 we restructured our ANZAC Day committee and put in place a revamped RSL (Tasmania) Hobart ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee which is responsible for the organisation and operation of the main Hobart ANZAC Day street parade. The day drew huge crowds, both at the Hobart Dawn Service and the main street parade, and it was particularly pleasing to see a much larger attendance of children. Unlike some of the larger states, the main Hobart march does not take hours from commencement to finish, and because of this we continue to encourage participation of the young who wish to march alongside their parents or

grandparents in the parade. Our members continue to be heavily involved in conducting small commemorative services at many of the nursing homes and schools around the state.

Korean Veterans' Day - Commemorating the end of the Koran War

The last Tuesday in July marked the 57th Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities of the Korean War on the 27th July 1953 with a commemorative service held at the Korea Memorial at Anglesea Barracks.

The cease-fire between the United Nations and North Korea brought to an end three years of bitter fighting which restored the security of the Republic of South Korea, but not before over a million Koreans were dead and 142,000 United Nation personnel, including 339 Australians (22 Tasmanians) killed out of a total 1,584 Australian casualties. Often described as 'The Forgotten War', it was a lonely, thankless conflict fought under horrendous climatic conditions in extremely difficult terrain and in a remote part of the world that was unknown to many Australians. It was the first time that the United Nations had been called on to defend a democratic country against ruthless Communist aggression.



The commemorative service, which was also attended by members of the Korean community, was preceded by a parade which saw His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania taking the salute on the steps of Navy Headquarters.

Remembrance Day 2010 – Hobart Cenotaph

The skies were grey and it was almost balmy weather for this year's Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Hobart Cenotaph. The large crowd comprised mainly veterans and school children which was very pleasing to see. In his address, the Governor of Tasmania, The Honourable Peter Underwood AC spoke of the tragedy of war and why we must never forget.

The Australian Army Band – Tasmania led the combined voices of the Albuera Street School in traditional hymns and also accompanied the school choir of the South Hobart Primary School as they sang ‘We Are Australian’. The MC for the service, on behalf of RSL (Tasmania Branch), was Mr Tony Scott OAM. Laying a wreath on behalf of the Federal Government was Senator Catryna Bilyk and on behalf of the Federal Opposition, Senator Eric Abetz. Also attending on the day and laying wreathes were the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon David Bartlett MP, the Leader of the State Opposition, the Hon Will Hodgman MP and the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, the Hon Nick McKim MP. Others to lay wreaths were local dignitaries, the Commissioner of Police, representatives of the Defence Forces and representatives of Ex Service Organisations and Associations.

Youth Programs

Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize - 2010

The Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize is a joint initiative of RSL (Tasmania) and the State Government of Tasmania. This is its seventh year. We remain grateful to the State Government for their continued support to the Memorial prize which is a major Youth Program 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.

On 11 November 2010, at Ogilvie High School in Hobart, the Hon Doug Parkinson MLC, on behalf of the Premier of Tasmania, announced the winners of the 2010 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. The six Year 9 student winners will tour Gallipoli and the battlefields of the Western Front through Belgium and France. They will attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villiers Bretonneux, France and their trip will follow many of the footsteps of Frank MacDonald MM, Tasmania’s last World War I veteran and Australia’s last surviving serviceman to have been cited for bravery in that war. Frank died on 23 August, 2003 at Burnie, Tasmania. He was 107.

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.

The 2010 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize winners are pictured with their Teacher

Chaperones and our RSL (Tasmania) State President’s representative, Mr Phil Pyke.



Front Row: (L-R) Jessica Flint (Wynyard High), Ella Coates (Latrobe High), Emily Pickett (Devonport High),
Centre: Declan Fahey (Marist Regional College), Michael Meyer (Launceston Church Grammar); Scott Bowden (St Virgil’s College)
Top Row: Teacher Chaperones, Mr Michael Cruickshank (Wynyard High) and Mrs Lynette Burt (Port Dalrymple School) and RSL Tasmania representative, Mr Phil Pyke.

RSL (Tasmania) ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ Cadet of the Year 2010

The successful Navy Cadet of the Year and Air Force Cadet of the Year were Amay Scott and Zivorad Stepanovic, respectively. A nomination was not submitted from Army Cadets in 2010. Both cadets received a shield and figurine denoting their Service as their award and competed for the ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ Award. Cadet CPO Amay Scott was successful and as winner, she was given a berth on the “Young Endeavour”.

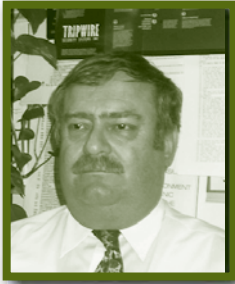
Conclusion

We acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from the larger State Branches who assist us in a number of ways. We also acknowledge the continued support of our State Government who remain committed to the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize and financial support to the League in Tasmania.

The State Branch is in a healthy position and well administered. Although there are only two paid positions, it maintains a group of dedicated volunteers who assist with finance, membership, corporate issues and the day to day operation of the Branch. We still have challenges ahead and with determination and the support of our sub-branches we see the League in Tasmania remaining a prominent entity for many years to come.

WILLIAM (BILL) KAINE MBE
State President

Australian Capital Territory Branch Report



John King
State President

Australia Day Medallions

In accordance with established procedure, Australia Day medallions were presented to three very worthy Branch members at a morning tea held at the Canberra Services Club, Manuka in January. This year's recipients were:

Mrs Jeanne Worth OAM, Gungahlin Sub-Branch,
Mr Michael Prain, Peacekeepers Sub-Branch and
Mr Thi Van Truong, Vietnamese Sub-Branch



Australia Day Medallion recipient, Mrs Jeanne Worth OAM,
with State President John King

Overseas Sub-Branches

Overseas sub-branches of the RSL are managed by the ACT Branch. They continue to provide valuable service to the veteran community by raising the profile of the RSL in a number of countries in liaison with other ex-service organisations, offering advice and assistance on general welfare aspects, not only to our ex-pat veterans and their respective dependents, but also to numerous charities in their sphere of influence.

Currently there are four overseas sub-branches – Angeles City (Philippines), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Subic Bay (Philippines) and Washington (USA).

During February the State President paid a visit to Port Moresby Sub-Branch and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Wally Lussick OBE RSL Memorial and Education Trust Fund. Whilst there he also visited the Port Moresby Grammar

School, where he presented education scholarships to two students on behalf of the National President, as well as to a charity project providing reading and writing skills to PNG children to 6 years of age. Later in the visit, the President and Secretary of the Sub-Branch took Mr King to the Bomana War Cemetery outside Port Moresby, where late last year four Australian servicemen's remains were interred. It should be noted that the Port Moresby Sub-Branch is the envy of the expatriate community in PNG because of the quality and quantity of their welfare work in the local community.

Commemorative Events

The ACT Branch continues to arrange or participate in many commemorative activities in Canberra and the surrounding region. Naturally ANZAC Day forms the major commemorative event in the yearly calendar but other events continue to involve Branch members just as much.

ANZAC Day Activities

Pre-ANZAC Day wreath-laying ceremony

The Australian War Memorial and the Department of Veterans' Affairs again jointly arranged a special wreath-laying ceremony in the Western Forecourt of the Memorial to allow aged veterans, war widows and widowers an opportunity to commemorate this significant anniversary, knowing that otherwise they may not be able to attend ANZAC Day services. Again this year, special buses were provided and special seating was arranged. The ceremony is also well supported by the many aged care facilities in the ACT region.

ACT Schools ANZAC Ceremonies

As usual, the Woden Valley Sub-Branch again organised a very moving and informative pre-ANZAC Day event for school students and members of the community in the Woden Valley area. This year's guest speaker was His Excellency Monsieur François Descoueyte, Ambassador of France, who spoke of the sacrifice and bravery of the Australian troops who fought in France and Belgium during World War I.

Other schools throughout the ACT are increasingly requesting assistance from sub-branches to participate in their ANZAC ceremonies. These are held during normal school term-time which often is well before ANZAC Day, thus allowing for suitable representation.

Dawn Service

Another cold Canberra morning did not deter the large numbers (estimated at around 20,000) who attended this year's Dawn Service. The State President along with General Peter Cosgrove AC MC (Retd) [Chairman of the AWM Council] and Steve Gower AO AO(Mil) [Director of the Australian War Memorial], and their wives, greeted His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Honourable Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister of Australia. The solemn laying of wreaths on the Stone of Remembrance during the ceremony by AFP Commander Geoff Hazel APM (Retd) of the Peacekeepers Sub-Branch and AIRCDRE Peter Port ONZM, Defence Adviser at the New Zealand High Commission, symbolised the unity of ANZAC. Detective Senior Constable Stephen Ladd of the Australian Federal Police played the Pipers' Lament during the wreath laying. President John King read the ANZAC Dedication segment and Deputy President June Healy OAM recited The Ode. Senior Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden, Army Headquarters, offered an address for ANZAC Day, with Junior Legatee Master Chad Amrein reading the poem '*In Flanders Fields*'. It is of note that this service is broadcast live throughout Australia by the ABC and various radio and television networks.

ANZAC Day March and Commemorative Service

Attendance at this year's programme was estimated as being slightly larger than last year, and included the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Mr Kevin Rudd MP, and Ms Therese Rein, His Excellency Dr John Larkindale QSO, New Zealand High Commissioner, and Mrs Philippa Larkindale, amongst other VIPs and dignitaries. His Excellency Dr Michael took the salute, with the march being jointly led by Mr John King, ACT Branch President, and AIRCDRE Peter Port ONZM, New Zealand High Commission Defence Adviser.

Our sincere thanks go to the Dawn Service coordinator, Vice-President Jan Paulga; the ANZAC March coordinator, Derek Roylance AM; and the Senior Parade Marshal, Kevin Noon CSM. Also, our appreciation also goes to the Chairman, Director and staff of the Australian War Memorial, who give unstintingly of their time and expertise in providing the finest venue in Australia to commemorate ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day Memorial Service – Embassy of France

As in past years, following the commemorations in ANZAC Parade, the Ambassador of France held a memorial service, where a wreath was laid by the Branch President, Mr John King. Mr King also delivered a formal address as part of the ceremony. A formal reception in the Embassy residence followed the service.

Other Commemorative Events

Other commemorative events in which the Branch was involved during the year included:

February

- National Servicemen's Memorial Service

March

- Chief of Defence Force Parade at ADFA

June

- Trooping of the Queen's Colours at RMC
- RMC Prizes and Sporting Awards Ceremony
- RMC Fulltime GSO Graduation Parade
- Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces Day ceremony
- Japan's Self-Defence Forces Day luncheon at the Japanese Embassy

August

- Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Croatian Patriotic War Volunteers & Veterans Association ceremony

September

- Battle for Australia Commemorative Ceremony
- Dedication of National Service Memorial

October

- Greek OXI Day ceremony at the Australian-Hellenic Memorial
- National Merchant Navy Annual Memorial Service

November

- Japanese Embassy reception to honour the Emperor's birthday
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at the AWM
- Embassy of France Remembrance Day ceremony and reception
- Remembrance Day ceremonies at Campbell and Mount Stromlo High Schools
- Tree planting ceremony at the ACT Arboretum

December

- RMC Prize Giving and Graduation Parade
- ADFA Prizes and Awards Ceremony
- Chief of Navy 2010 Official Reception

Branch Congress

The ACT Branch Congress was held at the Hellenic Club, Canberra on Friday, 11th June 2010, and was preceded by a memorial service and wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier at the Australian War Memorial.

This year the Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker was the National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO Ran (Retd) who formally opened the Congress and presented League Awards to well-deserving recipients. Other speakers included the Hon. Alan Griffin, MP, (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Hon Mrs Louise Markus, MP, (Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs) and Mr Ian Campbell PSM, (Secretary DVA).

These speakers were complimented by other VIP guests including, in alphabetical order, Mr Shane Carmody (Deputy President DVA), Ms Jennifer Collins (Deputy Commissioner DVA), Mrs Annette Ellis, MP (Federal Member for Canberra), Mr Sean Farrelly (Deputy General Manager DVA), Senator Gary Humphries, Senator Kate Lundy, Mr Derek Robson AM, (RSL National Secretary), representatives of Service Chiefs, together with Past ACT Branch Presidents Gary Brodie OAM, BRIG Peter Evans (Retd) and Derek Roylance AM and representatives from Kindred Ex-Service Organisations.

This year two representatives from the Port Moresby Sub-Branch, President Joe Filippi DMS and Secretary Mick Pye attended the Congress.

Branch Executive

The following members were announced as being elected unopposed to offices:

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

League Awards

The following were presented with League Awards and Certificates by Rear Admiral Doolan:

Meritorious Service Award

Mr Brian Cook OAM – Woden Valley Sub-Branch

[An award was also announced to Robin Albert Vickery which would be presented at a suitable later date]

Long Service Award

Mr Charles William Lucre – Woden Valley Sub-Branch

[Several other Long Service Awards were presented at suitable times during the year.]

Life Membership

Mr John (Jack) Aaron OAM – Woden Valley Sub-Branch
 Mr James Cullens MBE – British Sub-Branch
 Mr Gordon Masters – Woden Valley Sub-Branch



Life Membership recipient, Mr Jim Cullens MBE, of the British Sub-Branch with the National President and ACT Branch President

Certificates of Appreciation

Mr Hieu Khac Lieng – Vietnamese Sub-Branch
 Mr Peter Tedder – Woden Valley Sub-Branch
 Mrs Gwenyth Wainwright – Woden Valley Sub-Branch
 Mr Daryl Fox – Woden Valley Sub-Branch
 The Brindabella Trefoil Guild
 The Scout Association (ACT Branch)
 The Girl Guide Association (ACT Branch)
 The Girls' Brigade
 The Boys' Brigade



Representatives of The Girls' Brigade (ACT), with the National President and ACT Branch President

RSL – ADF Involvement

The strong bonds formed over many years between the Branch and the Staff, Officer Cadets and Midshipmen of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College, Duntroon continue unabated. The Branch provides prizes for nominated personnel, prior to the respective graduation ceremonies. Branch personnel are continually invited to (and attend) Prizes & Awards Ceremonies, Graduation Ceremonies,

Trooping the Colour and other significant occasions.

Membership

Branch membership continues to slowly increase with a pleasant rise in the number of Affiliates. By year's close, membership of the Branch stood at 2,139.

Sadly during the year said farewell to one of the League's long-time serving members, Mr Ray Kelly BEM who passed away on 17 November 2010. Ray first joined the RSL on 25 February 1948 and had been a member continuously since that date. He was also heavily involved with the (then) Sir Leslie Morshead War Veterans' Home and with Barton Sub-Branch until its amalgamation with Capital Hill Sub-Branch. He was awarded Life Membership of the League in 1966 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 1983.

Welfare and Advocacy

As is well known, the welfare of veterans and their dependants forms the foundation of the League, not just those who are RSL members. Arthur Craig OAM and his wife Kathleen continue to assist all applicants with initial claims, the preparation of cases for the Veterans' Review Board and liaison with the Honorary Branch Solicitors in presenting cases at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Finances

Our financial position is steady and, thanks to the sterling efforts of sub-branch members, our ANZAC Day and 'Red Poppy' appeals, we continue to support the local veteran community.

Change of Venue for Branch Headquarters

The move of the Branch Headquarters to premises at Manuka was completed last year and all members are now aware of the new location. The Canberra Services Club management have provided free accommodation and facilities for use for Branch Executive and Branch Council meetings, and also for several sub-branches who meet at the Club.

Branch 'Stand To' Magazine

During the year the Branch magazine, which had been in recess, was re-instated in a more user-friendly format, with copies only being posted to those members who do not have e-mail. Many

complimentary comments have been received regarding the new format.

Comments of Appreciation

My sincere thanks to the RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), RSL National Secretary, Mr Derek Robson AM; the respective RSL State Presidents and the staff of RSL National Headquarters for their always wise counsel and comradeship.

My sincere thanks also to our own Branch Executive and Branch Council for their strong support to me in our successful endeavours to promote worthwhile projects and activities here in the ACT for the veteran community.

I owe a special thanks to the appointed ACT Chief Executive Officer, Mr James Davidson, who continues to be a most professional and dedicated colleague, always on hand to advise and to offer guidance to myself and others when required on the complexities or subtleties of the RSL Constitution or other important RSL issues that have been raised from time to time.

Conclusion

I continue to find it an honour and pleasure to serve the Branch as its President and look forward to further challenges in 2011.

JOHN KING
Branch President

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.

Reports received from the Royal North Shore Hospital and written by exchangees express their gratitude to the RSL and clearly show the benefits of these exchanges.

Kapyong (Gapyeong) Scholarships

For many years now, it has been the practice to award Battle of Kapyong (Gapyeong) Commemorative Scholarships to schoolchildren of the Gapyeong Valley attending the Gapyeong High and Middle Schools. Depending upon the number of scholarships available, the respective schools select as recipients deserving children based on their academic ability and economic need. These scholarships are well received and usually presented by the Australian Ambassador to Korea about the time of ANZAC Day each year.

During the year, grants of \$US920 each were made for three RSL Kapyong Scholarships. These scholarships are provided each year and include one each from the Australian Korean Society (ACT) and the Australian Korean War Memorial Fund and the RSL Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

RSL & 6th Division Australian-Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund

Earnings from this Fund provide each year for two scholarships, the 6th Australian Division Scholarship and the Preveli Monastery Scholarship. As well, they provide for an annual donation to the Bishop of Spili's Destitute Fund. The scholarships and the contribution to the Destitute Fund constitute an annual commitment of \$6,500.

The Fund has a declining capital parity. It needs to be supported with additional donations and this matter has been drawn to the attention of the National Executive. The Scholarship value in particular needs consistent evaluation to ensure appropriate appeal, parity and recognition in Crete. For 2010, the level of grants for each of

the two scholarships was maintained at \$2,750 each while the grant to the Bishop of Spili's Fund also remained at \$1,000.

The 2009 report commented "that a substantial injection of Funds would allow the introduction of a scholarship in Australia". This could not be considered in 2010 but remains a worthy object for the Fund subject to increases in donations to it. An Australian scholarship, couched in similar commemorative terms to those now granted in Crete would, if instigated, be one of a very limited number of commemorative activities towards recognising among Australian youth this important battle and the enduring relationships forged between two peoples as a result. Particularly now, nearly 70 years after the battle and as memories fade, some continuing recognition in Australia is important to initiate.

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.

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.

No grants were made from this Fund during 2010.

Mountbatten Memorial Fund

This Fund, which was established from funds raised by the RSL and an equal grant from the Commonwealth Government, 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 \$5,000 was made to the RCEL from the Fund during 2010.

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 2010, a donation to the Fund was gratefully received from The Gap RSL Sub-branch. A grant of \$300 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 2010, grants from accrued interest amounting to \$22,000 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 \$14,000 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 Committee 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 Force.

The Year in Review

Following the election of the Labour Government in 2007, the promises that are still to be ratified are:

- include young ex-service people with disabilities in the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement;
- 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.

New Repatriation Commissioner

In July, Major General Mark Kelly AO, former Commander Australian Forces in the Middle East, began his five-year appointment as the Repatriation Commissioner. As we welcome General Kelly to his new role, we acknowledge the outgoing Commissioner, Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO, for his many years' service to the veteran community as both the Commissioner and previously as the Principle Member of the Veterans' Review Board.

2010 National Congress

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 by an indexation regime matching cost of living increases.

2. Pharmaceuticals

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

3. 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.

4. 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 are too young to qualify for aged care services.

5. Veterans' Aged Care

That the Government remove the barriers to veterans and war widows accessing higher levels of community aged care and 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.

6. 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).

7. Veterans' Disability Pensions Rates

That all rates for Veterans' Disability Pensions be adjusted by the same increment that was granted at the time for the Single Rate of Service Pension in the 2009 Budget which was by 2.7% increase of MTAW (Male Total Average Weekly Earnings).

Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act Review

In April 2009 the then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced the formation of a Steering Committee to undertake a review of the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act. 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'.

Following my report last year, the Steering Committee has now completed its meetings and drafting of the report is complete. The report was expected to be delivered to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the second half of 2010. However, this has been delayed and hopefully the Report will soon be available.

The Committee had met with the sub-committee of the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table five times during the review process. I represented the RSL at these meetings.

The following were the issues considered by the Committee:

- death benefits;
- offsetting between the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA);
- Special Rate Disability Pension;
- household services, attendant care and other ancillary benefits;
- reconsideration, review and evidentiary matters;
- comparison of claim forms and authority;
- medical evidence;
- scope to reduce the complexity of military compensation legislation coverage;
- permanent impairment compensation payment scales;
- incapacity payments and related rehabilitation issues;
- eligibility issues;
- compensation coverage for Australian Federal Police deployed on a high risk overseas missions;
- compensation for dependant partners and children;
- coverage under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* for Australian Defence Force members;
- transitional permanent impairment claims;
- causation issues and application of Statements of Principles;
- superannuation and related disability and death compensation issues;
- treatment cards for SRCA claimants;
- governance arrangements;
- rehabilitation issues;
- military superannuation;
- increase to permanent impairment lump sum payments under the SRCA;
- transition management;
- operational performance; and
- draft report chapters.

F-111 Deseal/Reseal

The Government Response to the June 2009 Parliamentary Inquiry '*Sealing a Just Outcome*' was tabled on 13 May 2010. The Response accepts 14 of 18 Inquiry recommendations for implementation, with some enhancements and some modifications to two of the recommendations.

The main changes/increased benefits of the Government Response are a \$55M package that includes:

- Significantly expanded eligibility for compensation and health care under subsection 7(2) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) - to an estimated additional 2400 personnel, giving them Tier 3 classification (a work-related exposure hierarchy) for the Government's F-111 specific scheme.
- Re-activating two health care programs - the SHOAMP Health Care Scheme, covering treatment costs for 31 specified conditions, and health screening under the Better Health Program. These programs are available to those with Tiers 1, 2 and 3 classification.
- Providing family members and other fuel tank maintenance workers with access to an expanded program of group and individual counselling.

The Government is not extending the ex-gratia payments scheme beyond Tier 1 and 2 personnel - ie, those involved in the RAAF's *formal deseal/reseal* work programs. These personnel are entitled to a one-off, lump sum payment, of \$40k and \$10 K respectively; but the Government is now including the Estates of deceased Tier 1 and 2 personnel (who died prior to 1 September 2001) as eligible to apply for the payments.

While the definitions of Tier 1 and Tier 2 personnel remain the same, part of the definition of Tier 3 has been broadened - category 1 of Tier 3 now includes any personnel who did F-111 fuel tank maintenance work involving: fuel tank *entry*; undertaken prior to 1 January 2000; at any location; across all trades that may have done this work.

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.

COMMANDER JOHN M HODGES RAN (Rtd)
National Veterans' Affairs Advisor

National Defence Committee Report

General

Domestically, Australia's involvement in Afghanistan and the flow on effects of budgetary constraints on projections in the previous year's Defence White Paper were the main areas of interest. Internationally, pressures continue to build in relation to the Korean Peninsula where recent North Korean aggression has heightened tension, in the Middle East where Iranian nuclear ambitions, and Israel and the West's response to them, are as unresolved as ever, and between Israel and her Arab neighbours, where if anything the situation has deteriorated. In addition, the situation in unstable Pakistan, which has improved in some areas, remains a threat to international peace.

North & South Korea

In late May it was reported that the South Korean Navy was hunting North Korean submarines in the Sea of Japan in response to the sinking of the South Korean corvette CHON AN some days earlier, which an international investigation team, including Australians, had determined was sunk by a North Korean torpedo. The result was that the two rival navies are now operating in close proximity on both coasts, giving rise to the possibility of further skirmishing sparking a wider conflict. Additionally, the South Korean Government announced economic reprisals to which the north responded with typically aggressive rhetoric. While the South has superior force projection capability and is backed by 25,000 US servicemen in South Korea and a further 32,000 in Japan, and the North has heavy artillery and rockets in range of the South Korean capital Seoul and a possible nuclear capability, the balance of power is substantially with the South. The situation was complicated in late November when the North shelled an offshore island in the south killing two South Korean marines and two civilians. Aggressive statements by the North and anger in the South heightened tensions with the South Korean Government vowing to continue with combined exercises in its territorial waters which was the North's pretext for the shelling.

The North threatened all out war, but when the exercises continued no further action was taken. Neither side has anything to gain and much to lose by significant confrontation and therefore the conflict is unlikely to escalate beyond current levels, although the South Korean Government is taking a much firmer stand than previously in response to North Korean threats. The questions

of the North's nuclear capability remains unanswered, but towards the end of the year North Korea was giving indications that it might allow United Nations (UN) inspectors back into the country. There is no doubt that the resolve demonstrated by the South Korean Government and its United States (US) ally was the right course of action and was having some effect on the North's actions.

Iran

The Iranian regime continues to present a belligerent attitude to the West and no progress has been made in the assessment of her development of nuclear capability, which she still claims is for peaceful purposes only. Ultimately it is not possible to imagine the West allowing a nuclear capability to become a reality with the dire consequences for the Middle East and the world, although a simple solution is much more difficult to predict. Reports surfaced in April that the Israeli security establishment was divided over whether Israel needs Washington's blessing if she decides to attack Iran, as the US is resistant to a military option for obvious reasons. At the same time Defence Secretary Robert Gates warned that the US needs new strategies to contain Iran and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs said that a military strike was the last option. Israel might decide to go it alone if her existence is threatened, although the consequences would be significant and although an Israeli strike is unlikely, it cannot be completely discounted. The ultimate solution short of the military option is unclear, although a new sanctions regime with Russia and China in agreement was reached in June.

Pakistan

The situation within Pakistan has not improved significantly over the first half of the year. However, it is still inextricably linked to the situation in Afghanistan and is critical to the interests of the US and its allies due to Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons and the consequences for the world of a fundamentalist regime coming to power.

While the Pakistani military has had considerable success against Taliban control in the north west of the country, there is still much to do to control the tribal areas in Waziristan and on the Afghan border. In spite of these military successes, the Government has been powerless to stop the frequent attacks on public, military and government targets in Islamabad, Karachi and

other major centres and more recently on Muslim religious minorities. While these attacks continue the Government cannot be said to be in full control. The only solution is continuous relentless pressure on fundamentalist elements and the Government continuing to have a pro western orientation. Success in Afghanistan is essential to such an outcome.

Afghanistan

Last year NATO developed a comprehensive strategic military plan for the prosecution of the war in Afghanistan with the US and Britain following through on upgrading troop numbers, and the US pledging to increase its contingent by 30,000 over time. Australia also announced that it would increase its contingent by 450 to 1,500. The focus of the Australian contingent's increase was in more effectively training and mentoring the Afghan Army's 4th Brigade while maintaining the Reconstruction Task Force and the Special Forces operational contingent.

While the US troop increase was significant, it is worth noting that the build-up has been slow and is still continuing, so it is unlikely that President Obama's pledge to begin withdrawing from Afghanistan by the middle of 2011 will be met. Currently, the strategy adopted by the US and hence by NATO is as a first priority to protect the population from the Taliban rather than an emphasis on offensive operations, thereby increasing confidence in the Government and allowing the construction of infrastructure to improve the life of the people in the provincial and rural areas.

Previously, the Australian Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs) based in Tarin Kowt were engaged in training one Kandak or infantry battalion and one combat support battalion of the 4th Brigade, with the Dutch responsible for one other battalion, the Brigade Headquarters and a combat support battalion, and the French responsible for the third battalion. The Dutch also provided combat and combat service support to the contingent as a whole.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led Multinational Combined Team – Oruzgan took command of ISAF troops in Oruzgan Province on 1 August after four years of Dutch command. The Combined Team will be under the command of a US Colonel and will consist of US, Australian, Singaporean, Slovakian, New Zealand and French personnel. The vacuum left by the Dutch in providing combat and combat support will be provided by the Combined Team and Australia will assume the training responsibility for the whole 4th Brigade,

which is a much more satisfactory situation than three nations training one brigade, with three different national standards. At the same time, the Government has reversed its previous decision to not allow Australian mentors to accompany units of the Brigade deployed on operations. Australian mentors can now deploy with their units in certain circumstances, reversing a most unsatisfactory situation and following a warning that Australia's refusal to allow our troops to take the fight to the Taliban was impeding the war effort. A good case can be made for additional Australian conventional fighting troops but the Government shows no signs of increasing the contingent.

While the ultimate result of NATO's campaign in Afghanistan cannot be forecast at this stage, there is no doubt that the right strategy has been introduced and chances of success at some future time thereby increased. Ultimate success will depend on the will of NATO, particularly the US, to continue to prosecute the campaign. The recent replacement of General McCrystal by General Petraeus is unlikely to materially affect the overall strategy.

The South China Sea

From 2007 on there have been competing territorial claims over the South China Sea. In more recent times, particularly in 2010, the growing assertiveness of the Chinese military and a belief in some quarters in the West that the Government has elevated the South China Sea to a vital national interest has increased tensions to a marked degree. There are new suggestions that Beijing is closer to contemplating the use of force to increasing what it believes to be its sovereignty over the disputed area. If the various claimant countries cannot reduce tensions, the dispute will become an increasing source of friction between China and various South-East Asian countries on the one hand and China and the US on the other.

The other countries with interests in the area include Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, all having claims on specific elements between themselves and China and in some cases competing claims with each other. Taiwan also has identical claims to China. The causes of the problem are nationalistic, particularly between China and Vietnam and disputes over fisheries and potential energy resources. Any military build-up on the part of China, which appears increasingly willing to use its naval assets to protect sea lanes and any other country, also has wider implications for international trade and the security of the region.

There are no simple solutions to the various conflicting claims.

The Defence Budget 2010-2011

Last year, Defence received a twenty year funding commitment from the Government in the White Paper including promises for 3% real growth to 2017-18 and 2.2% thereafter until 2030. When the Budget came down, however, \$8.8b was cut from the next six years and deferred. Since that time the economic outlook has improved as has the Government's fiscal position, notably the budget deficit.

In spite of this improvement, Defence has not benefited significantly and there have been no substantive new funding measures except for \$1.6b to cover overseas deployments over four years. At the same time Defence has been told to absorb \$912m for the total cost of enhanced force protection measures in Afghanistan.

The outlook for this year is not bad however, in spite of these measures, as net Defence funding will increase in real terms by 3.6% to reach a high of \$26b in 2010-11 or 1.9% of GDP. Last year's deferrals affect the years that follow and therefore the next two years are unlikely to be as favourable and the first two years of the forward estimates will see a fall in real terms before recovering in 2013-14. After that, to achieve the average real growth of 3%, Defence funding will increase in theory by 29% over five years. It is notable however that the 3% commitment appears nowhere in the budget papers.

The \$912m in extra costs comes on top of \$1.7b of additional costs over ten years demanded from Defence last year and does not include \$20.8b of savings from the Strategic Reform Program. These cuts will have an effect on both the Capital Facilities Program and on the capital equipment program. The effects on the former are comparatively minor and for the latter, difficult to determine. It is known however that money for new projects has fallen by 55% this year and 42% and 36% for the first two years of the forward estimates. As a result, further slippage to the 2009 Defence Capability Plan will occur although the budget papers do not list projects planned for approval. At present the major Capital Investment Program will fall by 23% in real terms between next year and 2012-13 before recovering after Defence funding grows.

Two problems remain, as the 2.2% in real growth after 2017-18 is unlikely to be sufficient to expand the ADF and it is difficult to ramp up industry quickly and therefore a rapid increase in

spending past 2012-13 will not translate into quick acquisitions.

The Budget contained good news about Defence personnel. In the last financial year Defence has seen its best recruitment and retention figures for over a decade with a separation rate of 7% compared to a ten year average of 11% and recruitment meeting 94% of targets, compared to a ten year average of 82%. Defence ended up with 1,500 more people than planned and as a result, Army was reduced by 581 positions and Air Force 316, although the ADF overall continued to grow.

The Strategic Reform Program is described by the Government as more than a savings program, as it is a deep and fundamental reform to the way Defence does business through improved accountability and planning and enhanced productivity. As a result, cuts have been made to the existing centrally planned budget and various parts of Defence have been told to live within their means, although there have been no transfers of savings to the sharp end, and doubts exist as to whether \$4.6b of the savings is anything more than an accounting device. Of the remaining \$15.7b, some will come from reductions in personnel, although targets have been reduced and the intention of moving Army capabilities to the Reserve has been abandoned. It appears that much of the remaining \$12.6b will come from reduction in costs to suppliers. All told, little information has been provided and it is therefore difficult to determine whether real progress has been made and in what areas.¹

As a return to surplus in 2012-13 is now the Government's objective, the Defence budget in future years is dependent on the economic performance of the country in general which is uncertain, although on current trends there are some grounds for hope.

Defence Strategic Reform Program

The Government endorsed the implementation plan for this program in April. In making the announcement, Senator Faulkner said the program would engage all areas of Defence and would unleash forces of innovation and change, delivering \$20b in cost reduction from 2009-10 for reinvestment in Defence capability as an integral commitment of the White Paper. He further stated that it was a means by which the organisation would be built, capable of delivering and sustaining Force 2030. While the Defence Committee agrees with the aims of the program,

some doubt exists as to whether it will achieve its targets and deliver the benefits advertised for it; see Defence Budget section. On 17 August, the Defence Committee was fully briefed by Mr Brendan Sargeant, the Deputy Secretary responsible for the Program.

New Chinook CH-47F Helicopters

The Minister for Defence, Materiel and Science announced in March the signing of a contract to acquire seven CH-47F Chinook helicopters, simulators and spares to replace the existing CH-47D aircraft. These helicopters will be allocated to the 5th Aviation Regiment in Townsville with two aircraft entering service in 2014 and all seven by 2017. The CH-47Fs will incorporate some minor specific Australian equipment, including crashworthy crew and passenger seating, Miniguns, and underfloor ballistic protection, but otherwise will remain consistent with the US Army fleet, allowing economies of scale in their support.

F35 Joint Strike Fighter Program

The Government remains confident that the F35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) is the right choice for the ADF's next generation air combat capability, which will enable Australia to maintain its strategic air combat capability advantage out to 2030. Initial operational capability is expected by 2018.

As a result of cost increases in the program, which will eventually deliver 3000 aircraft to the US and its allies, the venture has been subject to a Congressional review and a restructuring by Secretary of Defence Gates. Senator Faulkner further stated that while risks remain, the US remains fully committed to the program and that there were no adverse consequences of the review and restructuring for allied partners. The Defence Committee is of the view that Australia has no valid option other than to remain a partner in the program, which will ultimately be successful, although at increased cost.

FA18F Super Hornets

In July, the RAAF moved six more FA18F Super Hornets from the US to Amberley. This brings to almost half the total purchase of twenty four aircraft to be based at Amberley. Defence will be working towards a milestone of achieving initial operating capacity by the end of 2010. The FA18's have been bought to provide a bridging capability for the RAAF's transition to the Joint Strike Fighter.

Air Warfare Destroyer Project

This project is now well underway and the three Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers (AWD) are being constructed at three locations, Forcacs in Newcastle, BAE in Melbourne and ASC in Adelaide. 500 people are working on building the hull blocks at AWD which will grow to 1,000 in the near future with 3,000 building the warships around Australia. In April, the Minister for Defence Materiel and Science announced that ITT-EDO Reconnaissance and Surveillance Systems was the preferred supplier for the electronic warfare system for the destroyers.

Guided Missile Frigate Upgrade

This project has been removed from the list of Projects of Concern, which brings the upgrade closer to completion. The Minister has said however there is still much to be done to tailor the delivered systems to meet the Navy's contemporary requirements, although a much improved capability will eventually result.

New Naval Combat Helicopter

Tender papers have been released from the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) to the United States Navy and Australian Aerospace for the supply of new naval combat helicopters. Under this plan sufficient helicopters will be acquired to have eight helicopters deployed with ships at sea which requires a fleet of twenty four to be available. The new helicopter will be either a Sikorsky-Lockheed Martin built MH-60R sourced through the United States Navy, or the NATO Helicopter Industries NH90 NFH and will enhance the RAN's ability to conduct a range of combat and non-combat operations including anti-submarine and surface warfare.

Submarine Project Office

A new Australian Submarine Project Office was established in Adelaide in February to jointly manage the submarine availability required by the Government, which has directed all parties involved that better results are expected. The Office will have representatives of the Navy, DMO and the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC). Since that time, some improvements in availability have been achieved with three submarines at sea in June with the aim of having two or three available at any one time. One drawback was the unscheduled maintenance required to the generator of HMAS Farncomb earlier in the year.

Carl Gustaf Anti-Armour Weapon

A contract was announced early in the year for the supply of M3 84mm Carl Gustaf anti-armour weapons to the ADF which will be used by Infantry, Special Forces and RAAF Airfield Defence Guards. The contract includes the supply of sighting systems, spares and documentation, and three years of support. The enhanced sighting system will allow operations during day, night and adverse conditions, and continues many years of use by the Army of the various iterations of this weapon.

Projects of Concern

An updated Projects of Concern list was released by the Government in October. This list contains eleven major Defence projects which have problems with scheduling, cost, capability delivery and project management. According to government this process has been successful in remediating listed projects. Since 2008, 18 projects have been listed with six removed, five due to remediation and one to cancellation.

Defence Base Security

A Bill was introduced to Parliament in June to enhance the security of Australian military bases. This Bill was developed following a review of security arrangements after the arrests in August 2009 of a number of people planning an attack on the Holsworthy Army Base. In the Defence Committee's view, this development is long overdue as security has been grossly deficient in view of the increased risk of terrorist attack in recent years.

The legislation allows for Security Officials (contractors, guards, servicemen etc.) to search, refuse entry and detain. These Security Officials will be required to be properly trained and the Bill makes provision for search and detention. It also allows members of the ADF to arrest trespasses without a warrant. It introduces a new category of Security Authorised Office who will be a member of the ADF, properly trained, and will have additional powers including the use of lethal force when the installation is under attack or threat of attack.

The Bill contains a number of other provisions and is potentially a vast improvement of the current most unsatisfactory and dangerous situation. The Defence Committee has thoroughly examined the legislation, agrees with it without amendment, and has advised the Government accordingly.

Meeting with the Minister for Defence

On 28 May, most members of the Defence Committee and the National President attended a meeting with the Minister for Defence, Senator Faulkner. A number of issues were raised by the Committee including the situation in Afghanistan and Australia's response to it, current problems with the Collins Class Submarines and the Future Submarine Project, and progress on the Defence Reform Program. The Committee was able to put its views to the Minister and the Minister in response was frank and open and was able to give reassuring responses on a number of issues, displaying a command of the detail of his portfolio. The Committee viewed the meeting as constructive and, in line with the Minister's suggestion, will aim for further meetings in due course. However, as a result of Senator Faulkner's decision to stand down from the Ministry after the August 21 election, future meetings will be with the new Minister for Defence who is Mr Stephen Smith.

Senator Faulkner's announcement of his retirement from the Front Bench is unfortunate as he has proven to be an effective Defence Minister.

Guest Speakers

During the year a number of speakers briefed the Committee on various matters of defence interest:

- Air Marshal Binskin – Chief of Air Force
 - on current Air Force issues.
- Vice Admiral Crane – Chief of Navy
 - on current naval issues.
- Major General Molan
 - on his views of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Dr Mark Thomson
 - on the Defence Budget 2010-11
- Mr Raspal Khosa
 - on the current situation in Afghanistan.
- Mr Brendon Sergeant
 - on the Defence Strategic Reform Program.
- Dr Michael Evans
 - on the Stoic philosophy and the ethos of the ADF.
- Major General Kelly
 - on his experiences in Afghanistan.

Conclusion

Apart from budgetary and domestic issues, the most pressing defence question is the war in Afghanistan. While both major parties remain firmly committed to Australia's involvement, public opinion is divided, with a majority

probably favouring withdrawal. If the Government and Opposition, in full possession of the facts and expert advice, favour a course of action and the public does not, the proposition has not been properly explained in terms that the non-expert can understand. This should now be an urgent priority, as Australia's participation will no doubt last for some years and there is a good case for doing more. The Defence Committee is firmly of the view that for strategic and humanitarian considerations, Australia must remain committed and that proper public explanation of the reasons must be undertaken by both major parties. The Government has been advised accordingly by the RSL.

In October a debate was held in the House of Representatives on Australia's commitment to Afghanistan. While both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition made strong

statements in favour, which were backed by most members, there was some dissent from predictable quarters. One glaring omission from all submissions was any mention of Pakistan and the vital part that country's security has on ultimate success in Afghanistan.

Although some White Paper budgetary predictions have not been fulfilled, a not uncommon occurrence, the DoD is generally in good shape financially and recruiting and retention for the three Services is better than at any time in the last ten years. If economic conditions continue to improve, the Defence Force should at least be able to maintain its current situation, if not improve.

A CLUNIES-ROSS
Chairman

National Conditions of Service Committee Report

The work of the RSL National Conditions of Service Committee over the past year has been mainly focussed on those issues concerning the serving members of the ADF. Recent efforts by the National President, and the National Executive efforts to encourage serving members to join the League, must be matched by visible efforts, thus indicating that the interaction between the Government, the League and those organisations involved in the welfare and conditions of today's service person are of the utmost importance to the RSL. That said, many issues involving ADF veterans were also of concern to the Committee.

The Committee Chairman for the past few years, GPCAPT Phil Morrall AM, retired earlier in the year. His personal efforts involving the DFRT and leadership of the Committee have been most commendable. Several new members have volunteered their time during the year, including Mrs Julie Blackburn, who as the National Convenor of Defence Families Australia, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Committee. CDRE Syd Lemon RAN (Retd) has joined and his focus is primarily as the League intervenor at the DFRT on remuneration matters.

The Government's establishment of the Honours and Awards Tribunal has curtailed some of the Committee's work in this field as members now have the right to put specific cases to that body. Whilst not every case is attended to by the Tribunal, the issues on honours and awards brought before the Committee are now minimal. Furthermore, the information now available online about entitlements and award conditions permit more investigation at the origin than was possible before. Nonetheless, the League will continue to pursue issues where members or sub-branches put them forward. Some bodies are still not aware that Her Majesty, The Queen has closed the books on WWII awards and also expressed the view that from 1992, Imperial Awards for Australians should not be entertained.

The Committee has been active in several areas including housing, removals, medical services and the remuneration areas of pay and allowances. On the latter, we have access to the DFRT staff and those in Defence, such that issues brought before the Tribunal have been thoroughly researched and our intervenor attends the hearings. Most of the submissions by Defence have been strongly supported by the League and approved by the DFRT.

On the housing side, the committee has met with both DHA and the Defence authorities to ensure that extant policies on housing/townhouse availability in proximity to work sites, meet the serviceperson's needs. The issue is currently under review with the Service Chiefs.

The primacy of health services for members of the ADF is of current concern. Recent correspondence from Defence intimated that medical services in the ADF should be based on civilian practice. The deficiencies in the civilian system are well documented and the Committee is concerned and actively pursuing his issue with Defence.

The superannuation indexation issue is well documented and several briefs to the National President have been prepared over recent months. The matter will no doubt be back at the forefront of debate into the future.

DAVE ROGERS
Acting Chairman

Youth, Heritage & Citizenship Committee Report

There was no business forwarded for consideration by the Committee this year so it did not meet.

The Chairman of the YHC continues to represent the RSL on the Simpson Prize Advisory Committee. The Simpson Prize is sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and funded by the Federal Government. The competition is run and administered by the History Teachers' Association of Victoria in conjunction with history teachers' associations of the other States and Territories.

The competition is open to all for Year 8 and 9 students in all schools who care to enter individually, however many schools include it as

part of their history curriculum. The winners in each State and Territory receive an expenses paid trip to the ANZAC Day Ceremony at Gallipoli. The students are accompanied by two teachers and a representative from the Australian War Memorial.

Prior to the ANZAC visit, both winners and runners-up visit Canberra for the presentation of medallions by the Minister or his representative, visit the Australian War Memorial and attend a dinner at the Royal Military College of Australia, Duntroon. The dinner is hosted by cadets from Gallipoli Company, Corps of Staff Cadets.

JOHN MOYLE
Chairman

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.

Whilst 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.

The 2010 Recipient

The 2010 Reg Saunders Scholarship was awarded to Ms Melissa Mallie.

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 6th Division and saw action in the Middle East and New Guinea.

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

During the last 20 years of his life, Reg Saunders worked with the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs. 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 deployed overseas.

As the majority of these personnel serve in peace-keeping or peace-making missions on a six or eight month deployment, and to ensure that each member receives the benefit of a package during their period of overseas service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly.

In 2010, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Timor Lesté, Iraq, Israel, the Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands and the Sudan. Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions.

A total of 2,968 mid-year packages and 3,499 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 work of RSL AFOF is assisted by many donations received from ordinary Australians who share our desire to continue this support. We are most grateful to all those who assist by making personal and corporate donations and particularly acknowledge the significant donations received in 2010 from: Balgowlah-Seaforth-Clontarf RSL Sub-Branch (\$10,000), City of Blacktown RSL Sub-Branch (\$4,500), Bedford-Morley RSL Sub-Branch (\$2,000 and \$1,000), Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch (\$1,500), City of Mandura RSL Sub-Branch (\$1,300), Highgate RSL Sub-Branch (1,041), the War Widow's Guild WA Branch Monday Craft Group (\$794.50), Tarwin Lower RSL Sub-Branch (\$671.69), Belconnen RSL Sub-Branch (\$600 and \$500), 7RAR Association WA Branch (\$600), the Corps of Staff Cadets Mess RMC (\$600), Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch (\$500) Homebush-Strathfield Park RSL Sub-Branch (\$500), Rye RSL Sub-Branch (\$500), and Abermain RSL Sub-Branch (\$500).

During this year it was decided that we should do more to support our wounded soldiers.

Since February 2010, the Chief of Army has provided a 'Simpson Pack', containing light clothing items such as a track suit, t-shirt, shorts, socks, cap, beanie and toiletry items, to every soldier wounded on overseas operations. This is a very caring gesture and ensures that the member retains his personal dignity during the trying times of treatment and rehabilitation.

The RSL noted that many of our more seriously wounded are taken to the NATO Medical Facility in Germany and we recognised that they too clearly deserved some similar support. It was decided in September that we would introduce the 'RSL Support Pack', which was officially launched by the RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (R'td) and the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie AO DSC CSM, at RSL National Headquarters, at 1030 on Monday 1 November.



The launch of the RSL Support Pack

The Pack is now an integral part of our overall support to the serving men and women of the ADF, and is intended *'for all ADF members seriously wounded on overseas service who require treatment through the NATO medical facility and later long term hospitalisation back in Australia'*. The RSL Support Pack consists of an airline style carry case, tote bag, throw rug, ANZAC Biscuit Tin, sports shirt and shorts, socks, notebook, pen, a broad range of toiletries such as toothbrush/paste, razors, shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, chapstick, deodorant, face cloth, combs, soap, wet pack, an iPod loaded with Australian music and a large Australian Flag. All these items are intended to provide some comfort and to remind the member that the thoughts of all Australians are with them through these most difficult times.

It is appreciated that our wounded are well supported by the Defence logistic system but the RSL Support Pack is intended to provide a more personal link between the serving member and the broader Australian community. Each of the items contained in the pack is also intended to provide a more personal connection for the member, be a thoughtful reminder of our shared concern for one another, and assist in the member making a proud and dignified return to Australia.

The RSL has subtly branded the Support Pack on the inside, with a simple message 'RSL - Supporting the ADF' so that the bag can anonymously remain within that family, well into the future, as a personal reminder that this was provided as a personal gift on behalf of a grateful nation at a time of considerable need.

Above all, the RSL has been particularly conscious of being able to provide this pack to each wounded member on behalf of the broader Australian community.

The Support Pack was planned and prepared by the staff at RSL National.

For the packages, RSL AFOF relies on the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in their preparation. In particular, the contribution provided by the Army's 39th Personnel Support Battalion, other 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, is always greatly appreciated.



RSL National Secretary, Derek Robson (centre) and volunteers help pack the RSL AFOF parcels for Christmas 2010 delivery.

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 - 2010

Meritorious Service Medal

ACT

COOK OAM, B R VICKERY, R A

NSW

ASHBY, A F DICKMAN, S STEEL, K R
CONYERS, G C HUMPHREYS, W J

QLD

WILLIAMSON OAM, K S WILSON, J A

SA

BURNLEY, M GOOSENS, C

VIC

BELL RFD ED, F MOLYNEAUX, C ORRIS, F S TAYLOR, W V
LYONS, F M O'BRIEN, K PAYNE, K VALE, W

WA

HILL OAM, R HINTON BEM, C

Life Membership

ACT

AARON OAM, J R CULLENS, J MASTERS, G R

NSW

ANDERSON, K V DUNN, G V NICHOLLS, A E TAYLOR, L
BROWN, K A EBERLE, B M PERRIMAN, A B UNICOMB, L J
BUCHAN, V G FLOHR AM RFD ED, M M PRICE, R F VANE, J
BURGESS, J A FRIEND, P M RANDALL, D J VILLIS, R E
CAMPBELL, J R GOULDER, A J ROSS, L H A WARD, A D
CHEETHAM MBE RFD ED, K J HOGARTH, J H SANDOW, D V WATTS, V A
CONDOLEON, N HORSBURGH, B SHANAHAN, T H WEBB, J
CUNNINGHAM, R J McMANUS-SMITH, D J SMITH, C H WHEELER, W T
DOCKER, E E MERCHANT, B E STEER, R F C WILCOX, W R
DUNN, C N MURRAY, T E STEPHENSON, P J

QLD

ANDREWS, I FOSSEY BEM, F J PEARSON, J W SHERRINGTON OAM, J J
BOOTH, B A GAVIN, R J PHELAN, B R UPSON, T W J
DAWSON, B M HILLYEAR, C SCHMIDT, J E
FLEMING, P LEONARD, L SHADLOW, M B

SA

BARTLEY, W
BLAMEY, F M
BONYTHON, A M
CLARKE, E

DICKENS, W
DOWSETT, L O
EDWARDS, M J
FISHER, L

HAMMOND, M G
PARTRIDGE, L
PATERSON, R
PETERSON, C M

ROWE, B J
SCARFF, G R J
SMITH, C

TAS

BURLEY, P
JOHNSTON, M

KAINE MBE, W
MAINWARING, G

RYAN, D
SPURR, D

VIC

BARRAS, L T
BELL, D
BILES, J
BURGESS, G C
DUNSTAN, J
FITZSIMMONS, I R
FOX, K
GOODMAN, C

GUNN, R
HENRY, M
HICKMAN, W
JEFFREY, B R
JOHNSON OAM, J
KINCH, S
KNEEBONE, E
LANGFORD, T

McINTYRE, L
McLEOD, J
McMAHON, J
MEEHAN, J
MORRISON, K
RAE, J H
RENTON, R C
ROBERTS, E

ROSS, J G
SHELDTON, B
SMITH, R M
SYMES, R T
WILLIAMS, C S

WA

ARROWSMITH DFC
OAM, D R
AXFORD, D M

BEST, B J
CHATTILLON, H
HARRIS, J J

HASTIE, K J
LARKIN, C F
LEE, J I

STEWART, K R

Honorary Life Membership

NSW

Private 'S'

VIC

DAVIES, A

Honorary Membership

Nil

Honorary Membership for Life

NSW

COLLINS, G J

Certificate of Appreciation

ACT

ADAMS, D
FOX AM, D R
LIENG, H K
The Scout Association of Australia – ACT Branch

TEDDER, P
WAINWRIGHT, G
Brindabella Trefoil Guild

Girl Guide Association
The Boys' Brigade
The Girls' Brigade

SA

THOROGOOD, K

NHQ

HELLYER, G

MORRALL, P

Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge**NSW**CRAINE, M
FORMBY, G LLANGBIEN, A W
RYAN, L ASUTTON, M M
VIVIAN, K CWADDELL, M
WADE, E E**SA**

LAMONT, J

SEMMLER, S

VIC

BAKER, E

RAE, L

TOOLE, E

Women's Auxiliary Life Membership**NSW**BARRY, B
CONN, P
DUNCAN, G E
FRENCH, MGOOLMEEZE, M
LEE, B J
McQUIE, D
O'LEARY, KPAYNE, B
PETERS, M
SUTTON, M R
TREADWELL, Mvan LAWRICK, I M
WALKER, T S
WILSON, M
WORSWORTH, B**QLD**BOYCE, B
CHILDS, F
LATEMORE, A
LEWIS, BMACKLIN, M
MacPHERSON, E
NEWHAM, M
O'MALLEY, GPARKER, J L
PULLER, B
SPRY, G
TARRY, J MWINNETT, V E
WOODWARD, T**SA**

CREEK, J M

STIRLING, B J

TASJAMES, H
MACE, RMcLAUGHLIN, N
RICHARDSON JVON STIEGLITZ, B
WEEDING, N**VIC**ANDERSON, M
DENNING, MHAWKING, H
KAVANAGH, SMcPHERSON, M
SAXON, MTORNEY, I
YALDEN, F**50 Year Membership Certificate (formerly the Long Service Award)****ACT**BILLINGTON, A J
HUNGERFORD, W HLUCRE OAM, C W H
MARSHALL, T CMcRAE, C A
McRAE, F J

McRAE, G A

NSW

ALLEN, J E
AUSBURN, S K
BARGWANNA, N J
BIXLEY, J
BLACK, J B
BLANCH, S J
BOOTS, R L
BOWEN, W L
BRAYLEY, W J
BROOKE, R A
BROWN, R
BRYANT, H J
BUCKLEY, D J
BULGIN, A F
BULMER, L J
BUXTON, G S
BYLES, T E
CAMPBELL, J A
CARROLL, K
CLARKE, A G
CLARKE, T F
CLINCH, G
COLEMAN, W
COLLINGRIDGE, R W
COLLIS, A
COMINO, P
CONWAY, E J
COOKE, L W
COOPER, H A
COWIE, G
D'ARCY, H
DONNELLY, N J
DUCE, R
DUNN, J

DUNN, J R
EDWARDS, J L
EDWARDS, R D
ELLIOTT, A L
ELPHICK, R
ELPHICK, R A
FIELD, O S
FIRTH, C C
FITZHENRY, M V
FRAZER, K C
FREDERICKS, C W
GASCOIGNE, N E
GOLDEN, T
GOODLEY, G
GREENWOOD, C R
GUNDRY, S
GUNN, J L
HAIM, G J
HARLEY, A
HAYDON, R B
HEYDON, E M
HURTLE, F W
JOHNSON, R E
JOHNSTONE, S
KEATO, W T
KILLICK, F C
KLATT, J B
LE CUDENNEC, M R
LENEHAN, M B
LIDDELL, W C
LINTON, W M
MACK, A R
MARTIN, G
McCUTCHEON, N

McDERMOTT, N
McINNES, A R
McINNES, A R
McKINNON, E R
McMILLIAN, D O
MILLER, P J
MILLINGEN, H S
MITCHELL, W
MUGGLETON, J
NEWMAN, C E
NOBLE, A W
NOBLE, E R
O'SULLIVAN, M D
OSTLER, A E
OWENS, J F
PALMER, R
PARTRIDGE, J H
PEARCE, G J
PICKARD, D S
PICOT OAM, T J
PRIDAY, T
PRIMMER, J
RADFORD, W H
RADNEDGE, C A
RAMSAY, A
RAMSAY, M M
RAWLE OAM, L W
REDMAN, A
REDNEDGE, C A
REYNOLDS, H T
RHODES, F J
ROBINSON, L C
ROBINSON, F
ROSE, D J

ROWE, D F
RYAN, S
SHAW, H
SHELLY, R W
SIMPSON, W
SIMPSON, W
SMART, G
SMITH, B
SPIES, F M
STACKER, H A
STARLING, J W
STENNING, R R
STONE, C M
STRUTTON, M P
SULLIVAN, C M
SYMONS, C H
SYMONS, C W
TAGGART, G L
URQUHART, K G
WALLIS, H J
WALSH, N
WALSH, N B
WARING, A G J
WATSON, J J
WEBSTER, A W
WEDDELL, G
WHITE, A H
WHITWELL, H
WILDMAN, S J
WILLIAMS, W E
WILLMOTT, R
WILSON, G B
WOOLLEY, G
YOUNG, M H

QLD

ALVERSON, L
BALLINGER, K H
BILLINGHAM, H M
BISHOP, B C
BOSWORTH, E
BOURKE, M B
BUCKMAN, G A
COPELIN, J M
COSTELLO, B
COURTNEY, L C
CRUISE, L V
DINGLEY, R E
EDWARDS, J V
GELDARD, E D
GERAGHTY, S
GRONOW, F B

HANDLEY, G F
HARRIS, H G
HARTLEY, E D
HETHERINGTON, R B
HILTON, W T
IKIN, R
INGRAM, C G
JACKSON, W
JONES, R
KELLY, D T
LEEON, H
LLOYD, W G
LOWRY, G M
MACDONALD, T F
MARTELL, W H
MARTENS, R W

MATTHEWS, N A
McARTHUR, C J
McGEECHAN, T
McGRANE, M M
MCKENNA, F H
MCKENZIE, C S
MEDHURST, H G
MURDOCH, N P K
NOLAN, R J
NORTON, R T
O'ROURKE, E F
PATTISON, L L
POLAIN, J G
POWELL, G V
PRESTON, H G
PROWD, B

RITCHIE, O K
SHERRINGTON, T D
STEWART, F R
TAYLOR, B M
TRIMBLE, K
TURNER, D N
WAGSTAFF, H A
WHEELER, G
WHEELER, G E
WHITEHEAD, D B
WILLIAMS, C M
WILLIAMS, J E
WOODWARD, H

SA

ALDERMAN, D J
ATTRILL, B M

HUSSIN, L H
McNAMARA, T G

MEDLIN, H E
PINK, M G

ROUND, J O
YOUNG, A L

TAS

DAVIS, L C
DAVIS, R J

HALL, R J
PEEBLES, R R

WELLS, M C
WHILEY, W

VIC

BROOKER, E
BYRNE, L
CAWTHAN, S
CLARK, B
COBURN, K
DAVEY, E
ELSON, L
FRANCIS, K

GLIDDON, L
GOODES, W
HERON, C P
LAUGHTON, J
MARTIN, A
McCALLUM, H
McMAHON, J
MCQUEEN, S

MITCHELL, J H
MORROW, H
POTTS, W
RALPH, G
RASMUSSEN, H
ROBSON, J
RYAN, J
SCHOLTEN, H

SMITH, J R
SPIERS, C
SUTCLIFFE, J
WEST, J
WHITE, K
WRIGHT, L

WA

ALLERT, L
MACKENZIE, J
McQUADE, D

MIDDLETON, G
OTTAWAY, V

PAINÉ, J
PATTON, L

STEELE, K J
THOMSON, T S

70 Year Certificate

Nil

75 Year Certificate**NSW**

Miranda RSL Sub-Branch
Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch

90 Year Certificate**NSW**

Adelong RSL Sub-Branch
Armidale RSL Sub-Branch
Ashfield RSL Sub-Branch

Casino RSL Sub-Branch
Manly RSL Sub-Branch
Rockdale RSL Sub-Branch

Woonona-Bulli RSL Sub-Branch

WA

Beverley RSL Sub-Branch
Broome RSL Sub-Branch

Collie-Cardiff RSL Sub-Branch
Donnybrook RSL Sub-Branch

Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch
Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch

Womens' Auxiliary 30 Year Membership Award**QLD**

LEWIS, B
MACKLIN, M

MacPHERSON, E

PULLER, B

SPRY, G

RSL Prizes - 2010

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.

RSL Sword for Service - Officer Cadet Michael Gallatly

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.

June Graduation - Staff Cadet Dale O'Shannessy

December Graduation - Staff Cadet Zavia Tiplady



National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) presenting the National RSL Prize to Staff Cadet Dale O'Shannessy.

HMAS WATSON

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

RSL Sword - ASLT Julia Griffin

ANZAC Awards

ANZAC Peace Prize

The recipient of the ANZAC Peace Prize for 2010 is Mr John (Vehichi) Basarin. Mr Basarin, of Victoria received this award in recognition of his sustained and enthusiastic commitment to promote relationships between Australia and other communities around the world, particularly in Turkey, with a significant emphasis on his commitment to Rotary Youth Exchange programs and building understanding of the Gallipoli Campaign.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2010 ANZAC of the Year awards have been made to:

- Mr Glen Stockham of South Australia -
in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the veteran and wider community in South Australia and Alice Springs, and particularly his efforts in the development of the Alice Springs RSL Sub-Branch War Museum.
- Inspector Mark Carrick of New South Wales -
in recognition of his outstanding voluntary work, continued support and contribution to Police Legacy and in particular to mentoring Police Legatees.
- Mr Robert Mercer of Western Australia -
in recognition of his years of dedicated and committed service to the community of Western Australia, particularly through the WA Ostomy Association, the Police & Citizens Youth Clubs of WA and the Returned & Services League of Australia.
- Mr Luke Geary of New South Wales -
in recognition of his committed and selfless service in providing free legal representation through the Salvation Army to the marginalised and disadvantaged people in western Sydney.
- Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital Surgical Team (Victoria) -
in recognition of their extraordinary achievement in separating the conjoined twins Krishna and Trishna in a marathon surgical procedure in September 2009. The Team and their support staff displayed a high measure of individual and collegiate courage and

comradeship in carrying out such a dangerous and difficult operation.

- Mr Justin Davies of New South Wales -
in recognition of his service to the community, particularly through the development of the Salvation Army's 'Moneycare' services and 'Red Kite'.
- Sergeant S of Special Operations Command.-
in recognition of outstanding service to the Defence community.

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 2010 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to Miss Alexandra Byron and Mr Timothy Hampton. This year, due to special circumstances, a third scholarship was awarded to Miss Danielle Rathjen.

RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships

The RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships were instituted in 2010 to assist in the education of 2 students in the final two years of high school at Port Moresby Grammar School.

The Scholarship winners for 2010/11 are Miss Iadua Vergofi and Mr Peter Redin.

National Executive Members

National President	Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd)
Deputy National President	Mr Don Rowe OAM
National Secretary	Mr Derek Robson AM

State Presidents

Victorian Branch President	Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)
Western Australian President	Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD
New South Wales Branch President	Mr Don Rowe OAM
South Australian Branch President	Mr Jock Statton OAM
Queensland Branch President	Mr Doug Formby AM
Tasmanian Branch President	Mr Bill Kaine MBE
Australian Capital Territory Branch President	Mr John King

National Officers/Advisors

National Treasurer	Mr David Sinclair
National Legal Advisor	Mr Brian Loftus RFD
National Defence Advisor	Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (RL)
Veterans' Affairs Advisor	Mr John Hodges

National Headquarters Staff Members

as at December 2010

National Secretary	Mr Derek Robson AM
National Project Officer	Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis
Business Manager	Mrs Jan Ormerod
Secretary to National Secretary	Ms Dawn Kitchener
Administrative Assistant	Ms Jessica Cossart (from June)
Reception	Ms Tess Black (until May)
	Ms Sarah Blackmore (from June)

RSL Membership Details - as at 31 December 2010

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
ACT/Overseas	2,139	15	-	-
NSW	49,301	394	3,642	178
QLD	39,312	255	513	35
SA / NT	13,160	144	437	29
TAS	4,429	52	345	26
VIC	65,446	318	1,400	105
WA	10,571	131	115	10
ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS				
2010	184,402	1,309	6,452	383
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 Cover: Flowers and tributes surround the tombstones of the soldiers who have been re-buried in the Fromelles Military Cemetery.

Inside Back Cover: The bearer party lowers the coffin of the 250th soldier into his final resting place.

(Photos courtesy of the Department of Defence)





The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance