



RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia

National Annual Report

2011



RSL - Looking to the Future

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

RSL - Focusing on the Future

RSL National Congress 20-21 September 2011

Just 5 years short of the centenary of the League's founding, its members gathered in Melbourne, where the League was established, on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 September 2011 to participate in a program focused on the future.

The Congress was structured into 6 sessions, each with 3 guest speakers followed by a question and answer session. Topics examined included the impact on mental health of operational service and an examination of the Australia's security and strategic outlook.

This new format reflects the League's determination to remain relevant to contemporary and future circumstances while holding fast to the principles upon which the RSL was founded including the core business of caring for veterans and their dependants.

The RSL continues to forcefully and effectively represent the needs and aspirations of the nation's service and ex-service community; to proudly support the need for a fully combat capable Australian Defence Force manned, trained and armed to go in harm's way in defence of the nation; and to care for those who have been disadvantaged or are suffering as a consequence of serving in defence of our nation.



Front Cover: RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) speaks at the Opening Ceremony of the 2011 National Congress

Inside Front Cover: Delegates to the National Conference.

2011 RSL National Annual Report

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National President's Report



Ken Doolan
National President

The future of the League was an uppermost consideration during the year 2011 with our focus remaining on the need to expand efforts aimed at attracting and retaining new members. We achieved some success in recruiting currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force to our ranks, in particular, as members of the online Defence Virtual Sub-Branch. Much more remains to be done if we are to arrest the decline in our numbers occurring naturally as the ranks of our World War II veterans thin.

Our membership remains substantial and widespread across the nation. We numbered 177,345 at 31 December 2011 and we have more than 1,200 sub-branches in cities, suburbs, towns and villages throughout Australia – and a handful overseas.

Building bridges of understanding between our more senior members and those with recent experience in Australia's fighting forces continued throughout the year – and this quest continues. We also adjusted to change in such areas as Workplace Health and Safety policy, accepting that governance of the League must comply with variations in relevant legislation even though we are a largely volunteer based organisation.

We are particularly mindful that the pace and extent of change is of concern to some members and continued to do what was possible throughout the year to ameliorate these worries. We must accept however that the outlook is for further change. This appears inevitable and likely to increase in scope and speed with each passing year.

Members of the League are deserving of great praise for their selflessness in attending to our core business of delivering welfare to the ex-service community and their dependants. They also have every reason to be proud of what they did in several States to assist those in need as a consequence of the natural disasters caused by floods, cyclones and bushfires during 2011.

At the national office we were very active on behalf of current members of the Australian Defence Force. Our representative at pay and

conditions of service hearings before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal argued for reasonable outcomes for those in uniform; and we produced a draft paper currently under consideration within the Department of Defence about the possibility of superannuation for members of the Reserve forces. Other matters about which we made representations on behalf of current service personnel included prospective changes to the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*; and the yet to be reintroduced to Parliament *Military Court of Australia Bill 2010*. The National Conditions of Service Committee met regularly to review issues such as housing for defence personnel; and the National Defence Committee attracted authoritative speakers about a wide range of issues concerning national security and the future shape and composition of the Australian Defence Force.

A highlight of the past year was the introduction of a new style of National Congress which allowed us to showcase the widespread activities with which we are involved. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs delivered the keynote speech on behalf of the Prime Minister and we were honoured by the attendance of the Leader of the Opposition who spoke about the policies of the Coalition. Thereafter authoritative experts addressed us on a wide variety of relevant topics ranging from Australia's Strategic and Security Outlook to the Impact of Conflict on the Mental Health of Former and Current Service Personnel. All speakers then took questions from the audience. We intend that the 2012 National Congress in Sydney will have a similar format and hope this will be of such interest that it will attract attendance by significant numbers of our members.

Our quest for an improvement of the rate of indexation of superannuation payments from the *Defence Force Retirement Benefits*, *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits*, and *Military Superannuation Benefits Schemes* continued unabated throughout the year. We were fully engaged in lobbying cross bench Senators prior to the Senate's consideration of the Opposition's *Fair Indexation Bill* in mid year and were disappointed when this legislation failed to gain the one extra vote needed to pass. Politicians of all political persuasions respect the apolitical stance of the League in forcefully and relentlessly arguing for a more equitable rate of indexation for all military superannuants.

KEN DOOLAN
National President

National Secretary's Report



Derek Robson
National Secretary

There is never a dull moment in the RSL. Every year has its challenges, its own excitement and its own difficulties. Some of these are requested of us, some are expected of us and some are caused by us. Year 2011 had the lot.

This year has been busy and we would not have achieved our aims without the total commitment of our staff and willing volunteers. The individual National Office staff members are very professional and totally committed to supporting the League and its activities and we are indebted to their unwavering loyalty and work ethic. It is not widely known that, in addition to their normal workload, they are also the ones who so readily volunteer to represent the League at the twice yearly preparation of the Australian Forces Overseas Fund packages, which we send to members of the Australian Defence Force serving overseas. It is important that we do not take this rich staff resource for granted.

The National Advisory Committee members continue to support the League at every level and they are regularly called upon to provide well considered input to the steady flow of Parliamentary and Departmental Reviews and respond to questions coming from our membership. These Committee members are, in the main, senior retired service officers and they are all volunteers. Their commitment to 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 RSL Clubs and Licensed Sub-Branches Forum, and the National Tribunal, is very much appreciated.

The Headquarters hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive in March, August and November, and the September National Congress was held in Melbourne, Victoria. **This year's** National Congress was designed to showcase the League and present many of the differing facets of our activity. To attract appropriate interest, the business sessions, reception, and dinner were all

held in and around some very attractive Melbourne venues, with the wreathlaying ceremony being conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance. With the Congress program taking the form of a Seminar, we were able to have a number of sessions with high quality speakers and panel discussions. The traditional **RSL's Annual General Meeting component was** held in a stand-alone session toward the close of the overall event. There is no doubt that the overall National Congress was appreciated and it is planned to have a similar arrangement for the Congress planned for Sydney in 2012.

Over the past few years, I have offered a running commentary on our progress toward redevelopment of the RSL National site. Since the **very early 1960's, the RSL has conducted its** business from the same building at 81 Constitution Avenue in Canberra. Sadly this changed this year, when after a number of issues with the building, RSL National had to move to alternate premises at 65 Constitution Avenue. Firstly, there was an electrical fire in the ceiling which took out the majority of the lighting circuits, then it was massive ingress of water following the severe storms toward the latter end of the year, and then as the building dried out and settled, significant cracks began to appear in the overall structure. Clearly the building has reached its use-by date. It had always been envisaged that we would move to these same premises during the two year construction phase of the new National office, so effectively we have simply brought that move forward by around one year. It is now planned that we will remain in this location for around three years.

Noting that we now only have around a quarter of the space which we have been used to in the original building, we have had to make some change. We are only able to undertake our basic administrative role in the new premises, with all of our memorabilia and the contents of the National Office Library having had to be placed in storage. Moving the amount of material which we had accumulated over the past 50 years was a mammoth task, and I will always be grateful to my personal staff for them having taken responsibility for this. I will never forget the very long hours they all worked over the three week period right up to Christmas to ensure the safety of our material and memorabilia. The League is blessed with this talent.

Planning for the redevelopment of the National site has continued. All possible options have been considered and it now almost certain that the

majority of the site will be residential high rise, with retail opportunities on the street level and a separate RSL National Office on the prime part of the site, that being the Constitution Avenue and Blamey Crescent corner. The National Office will be the landmark building at the head of Constitution Avenue and we would still hope that from there we can promote the broader pedestrian promenade as an ideal platform to accommodate plaques and other edifices to acknowledge the founders and the progress of our National Constitution. This is an important precinct in Canberra and we have been encouraged by the National Capital Authority to assist in its proper promotion.

The National Office staff can take great pride in their organisation of the several aspects of the **League's support to the serving men and women** of the Australian Defence Force. They arrange for the regular Australian Forces Overseas Fund packages to be sent twice yearly to all those serving overseas, they ensure that the very successful RSL Support Pack is available to all those ADF members seriously wounded overseas who require treatment through the NATO medical facility and later long term hospitalisation back in

Australia. We also support Operation Care which **provides for a week's respite anywhere in** Australia for the recovering member and his family as part of his rehabilitation program.

The National Office takes great pride in the part it plays in supporting the network of State, District and Sub-Branches, the National Executive, and the broader Australian community. In particular, we are proud of the enhanced support we are now able to offer the serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force.

We have achieved much, and we will continue to seek ways to improve on the content and delivery of greater benefits to all whom we serve – the League members, the serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force, the ex-service community, the broader Australian community and our youth.

The National Office is very proud of what it has been able to achieve this year.

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 2011.

The net result of the year's operations on an accrual basis was a surplus of \$428,913 compared with a surplus of \$611,552 for the previous year. The principal contributors to this situation were an increase in capitation fees offset by a substantial reduction in receipt of Unibic commissions within the financial year as well as a reduction in receipts from the Raise-A-Glass campaign. Total current account expenditures, at \$1,005,827, were virtually the same as for the previous year. Salaries and superannuation, together with provisions for long service leave and annual leave represented about 46% of total current account expenses. In addition, capital expenditures totalling \$464,000 were incurred during the year.

Overall, total equity for the National Headquarters increased by \$428,913, to \$2,472,451.

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

DAVID SINCLAIR
National Treasurer

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The National Executive of The Returned & Services League ("RSL") of Australia Limited, submit herewith the annual financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2011. 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 ATTENDED HELD | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| K A Doolan AO | Member National Executive | 1 year, 9 months | 3 3 |
| W E Gaynor OAM RFD | Member National Executive | 9 years, 11 months | 3 3 |
| DJ McLachlan AO JP | Member National Executive | 9 years, 1 month | 3 3 |
| D E J Rowe OAM | Member National Executive | 7 years, 7 months | 3 3 |
| J H Statton OAM | Member National Executive | 7 years | 3 3 |
| D A Formby | Member National Executive | 5 years, 1 month | 3 3 |
| W Kaine MBE | Member National Executive | 2 year, 2 months | 3 3 |
| J King | Member National Executive | 2 year, 1 month | 3 3 |
| T Meehan | Member National Executive | 1 month | 0 0 |

The following changes of Directors occurred during the financial year:

Retiring Directors: D A Formby

Incoming Directors: T Meehan

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 \$428,913.

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.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

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

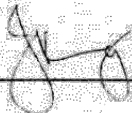
A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations ACT 2001 is attached to this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Directors



Director



Director

Date: 12 – 9 – 11

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 2011 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company and economic entity
- 2 In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Director

Dated this 12th day of September 2011

**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 2011 there have been:

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

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



K.D. Hanna, Principal

Date: 1/9/11

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

STATEMENT of COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 | | Notes | 2011 |
|------------------|---|-----------|------------------|
| \$ | | | \$ |
| <u>1,635,727</u> | Revenue from ordinary activities | 3a | <u>1,434,741</u> |
| 144,777 | Administration expenses | | 149,748 |
| 437,802 | Employee benefits expense | | 464,912 |
| 20,049 | Occupancy expenses | | 22,213 |
| 44,398 | Depreciation | | 46,398 |
| 24,621 | Meeting and conference expenses | | 44,336 |
| 18,518 | Insurance costs | | 15,695 |
| 14,761 | Accounting and auditing fees | | 13,190 |
| 103,270 | Commissions - to States for UNIBIC sales | | 54,302 |
| 64,624 | National Governance Review | | 7,996 |
| <u>151,355</u> | Other expenses from ordinary activities | | <u>187,038</u> |
| <u>1,024,175</u> | Total Expenses | 3b | <u>1,005,827</u> |
| <u>611,552</u> | (Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax | | <u>428,913</u> |
| - | Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities | | - |
| <u>611,552</u> | Net Surplus for Year | | <u>428,913</u> |

Statement of Changes in Equity

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance at 30th June, 2009 | 1,431,986 |
| Surplus for the Year 2010 | <u>611,552</u> |
| Balance at 30th June, 2010 | <u>2,043,538</u> |
| balance at 30th June, 2010 | 2,043,538 |
| Surplus for Year 2011 | <u>428,913</u> |
| Balance at 30th June, 2011 | <u>2,472,451</u> |

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | | Notes | 2011 \$ |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| | Current Assets | | |
| 891,760 | Cash assets | 4 | 795,894 |
| 66,014 | Receivables | 5 | 122,788 |
| 25,735 | Other | 6 | - |
| 11,587 | Inventory | | 7,736 |
| <u>473,084</u> | Investments | 7 | <u>592,754</u> |
| <u>1,468,181</u> | Total Current Assets | | <u>1,519,172</u> |
| | Non-Current Assets | | |
| <u>849,836</u> | Property, plant and equipment | 8 | <u>1,226,583</u> |
| <u>849,836</u> | Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>1,226,583</u> |
| <u>2,318,016</u> | Total Assets | | <u>2,745,755</u> |
| | Current Liabilities | | |
| 78,823 | Payables | 9 | 67,026 |
| <u>192,537</u> | Provisions | 10 | <u>201,365</u> |
| <u>271,360</u> | Total Current Liabilities | | <u>268,391</u> |
| | Non-Current Liabilities | | |
| <u>3,119</u> | Provisions | | <u>4,913</u> |
| <u>3,119</u> | Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>4,913</u> |
| <u>274,479</u> | Total Liabilities | | <u>273,304</u> |
| <u>2,043,538</u> | Net Assets | | <u>2,472,451</u> |
| | Equity | | |
| <u>2,043,538</u> | Retained earnings | 13 | <u>2,472,451</u> |
| <u>2,043,538</u> | Total Equity | | <u>2,472,451</u> |

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N. 008 488 097

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | | Notes | 2011 \$ |
|------------------|--|------------|-------------------|
| | Cash Flows From Operating Activities | | |
| 1,456,823 | Receipts from customers | | 1,360,175 |
| (906,681) | Payments to employees and suppliers | | (987,792) |
| <u>28,903</u> | Interest received | | <u>74,566</u> |
| <u>579,046</u> | Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | 18a | <u>446,949</u> |
| | Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | |
| (94,226) | Payments for property, vehicle & equipment | | (444,963) |
| <u>42,545</u> | Proceeds from sale of vehicle, plant & equipment | | <u>21,818</u> |
| <u>(51,681)</u> | Net cash used in investing activities | | <u>(423,145)</u> |
| 527,365 | Net Increase/(Decrease) In Cash Held | | 23,804 |
| <u>837,480</u> | Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year | | <u>1,364,844</u> |
| <u>1,364,844</u> | Cash At The End Of The Financial Year | 18b | <u>1,388,648</u> |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

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 a 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 | 45 years |
| Plant and Equipment | 5-13 years |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

d. Leases

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

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

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

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

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

e. Financial Instruments

Recognition

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

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

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

Loans and receivables

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

Held-to-maturity investments

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

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.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

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.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
A.C.N. 008 488 097
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | NOTE | 2011 \$ |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| | 3 PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES | |
| | Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses: | |
| | (a) Operating revenue | |
| 719,919 | Capitation fees | 814,520 |
| 335,755 | Commission - UNIBIC | 197,508 |
| 40,000 | Grants | 40,000 |
| 418,654 | Donations (net of share to States) | 251,917 |
| 24,385 | Royalties | 26,482 |
| 45,455 | National Governance Review | 16,170 |
| 28,903 | Interest | 74,566 |
| <u>22,656</u> | Other revenue from ordinary activities | <u>13,577</u> |
| <u>1,635,727</u> | | <u>1,434,741</u> |
| | b) Expenses | |
| | Depreciation of Non Current Assets: | |
| 10,615 | Buildings | 10,615 |
| 7,441 | Equipment, furniture and fixtures | 7,800 |
| 14,577 | Motor vehicles | 14,589 |
| 11,537 | Computer hardware and software | 13,112 |
| <u>228</u> | Library, plaques & RSL march | <u>282</u> |
| <u>44,398</u> | | <u>46,398</u> |
| | Net transfers to/(from) provisions: | |
| 25,321 | Employee entitlements | |
| 10,630 | Annual leave | 3,875 |
| <u>35,951</u> | Long service leave | <u>6,747</u> |
| <u>5,920</u> | | <u>10,622</u> |
| | Operating lease rental expenses | <u>6,193</u> |
| | Government Grant - Contributions towards: | |
| 3,000 | - National Executive | 3,000 |
| 8,000 | - National Congress | 8,000 |
| 13,000 | - National President's Expenses | 13,000 |
| 12,000 | - National Headquarters Travel | 12,000 |
| <u>4,000</u> | - Community Consultation | <u>4,000</u> |
| <u>40,000</u> | | <u>40,000</u> |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 | NOTE | | 2011 |
|----------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| \$ | | | \$ |
| | 4 | CASH ASSETS | |
| 500 | | Cash on hand | 500 |
| 287,716 | | Cash at bank - General Funds | 546,923 |
| <u>603,544</u> | | Cash at bank - Building Fund | <u>248,471</u> |
| <u>891,760</u> | | | <u>795,894</u> |
| | 5 | CURRENT RECEIVABLES | |
| 40,774 | | Trade receivables | 17,825 |
| <u>25,240</u> | | GST receivable/sundry debtors | <u>104,963</u> |
| <u>66,014</u> | | | <u>122,788</u> |
| | 6 | OTHER CURRENT ASSETS | |
| 10,040 | | Advances - Associated Funds | - |
| <u>15,695</u> | | Prepayments | - |
| <u>25,735</u> | | | - |
| | 7 | INVESTMENTS | |
| | | Current | |
| <u>473,084</u> | | Term deposit | <u>592,754</u> |

NOTE 8 PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

| | Buildings at cost | Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures at cost | Motor Vehicles at cost | Computer Hardware & Software at cost | Library, Plaques & RSL March at cost | TOTAL |
|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Gross Carrying Amount | | | | | | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Balance start of year | 822,896 | 221,723 | 73,091 | 51,418 | 13,377 | 1,182,505 |
| Additions | 387,500 | 17,908 | 36,976 | 10,536 | - | 444,963 |
| Disposals | - | - | (36,398) | - | (1,500) | (37,898) |
| Balance at end of year | <u>1,210,396</u> | <u>239,631</u> | <u>73,669</u> | <u>53,997</u> | <u>11,877</u> | <u>1,589,570</u> |
| Accumulated Depreciation and Amortisation | | | | | | |
| Balance at start of year | (133,768) | (153,604) | (7,614) | (28,066) | (9,618) | (332,670) |
| Depreciation | (10,615) | (7, 800) | (14, 589) | (13,112) | (282) | (46,398) |
| Disposals | - | - | 14,581 | - | 1,500 | 16,081 |
| Balance at end of year | <u>(144,383)</u> | <u>(161,404)</u> | <u>(7,622)</u> | <u>(41,178)</u> | <u>(8,400)</u> | <u>(362,987)</u> |
| As at 30 June 2011 | 1,066,013 | 78,227 | 66,047 | 12,819 | 3,477 | 1,226,583 |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | NOTE | | 2011 \$ |
|------------------|-----------|---|------------------|
| | 9 | CURRENT PAYABLES | |
| 25,617 | | Trade creditors | 10,647 |
| <u>53,206</u> | | Other payables | <u>56,379</u> |
| <u>78,823</u> | | | <u>67,026</u> |
| | 10 | CURRENT PROVISIONS | |
| 113,617 | | Annual leave (note 12.) | 117,492 |
| <u>78,920</u> | | Long service leave (note 12.) | <u>83,873</u> |
| <u>192,537</u> | | | <u>201,365</u> |
| | 11 | NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS | |
| <u>3,119</u> | | Long service leave (note 12.) | <u>4,913</u> |
| | 12 | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS | |
| | | The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows: | |
| | | Provisions for employee entitlements | |
| 192,537 | | Current (note 10.) | 201,365 |
| <u>3,119</u> | | Non-current | <u>4,913</u> |
| <u>195,656</u> | | | <u>206,278</u> |
| | 6 | Number of employees (on a full-time equivalent basis) at the end of the financial year | 6 |
| | 13 | CHANGE IN EQUITY | |
| | | RETAINED EARNINGS | |
| 1,431,986 | | Balance at the beginning of financial year | 2,043,538 |
| <u>611,552</u> | | Net Profit(loss) attributable to members | <u>428,913</u> |
| <u>2,043,538</u> | | Balance at the end of the financial year | <u>2,472,451</u> |
| | 14 | REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR | |
| | | Remuneration of the auditor for: | |
| 3,500 | | Auditing the financial report | 3,500 |
| 1,400 | | General accounting services | 1,400 |
| <u>500</u> | | FBT return | <u>500</u> |
| <u>5,400</u> | | | <u>5,400</u> |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

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

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a. Interest Rate Risk

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

| 2010 | Average Interest | 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% | | | | 40,774 | 40,774 |
| | | | | | | - |
| | | 140,203 | 1,173,084 | | 51,557 | 1,405,618 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | | | |
| Creditors & accruals | 0.00% | | | | 78,823 | 78,823 |
| Employee entitlements | 0.00% | | | | 195,656 | 195,656 |
| | | | | | | - |
| | | - | - | | 274,479 | 274,479 |

| 2011 | Average Interest | Variable Interest Rate | Fixed Interest Rate Maturity | | Non Interest Bearing | Total |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------|
| | | | Less than 1 year | 1 to 5 Years | | |
| | % | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Financial Assets | | | | | | |
| Cash | 1-6.5% | 486,616 | 248,471 | | 60,307 | 795,394 |
| Investments | 6.50% | | 592,754 | | | 592,754 |
| Receivables | 0.00% | | | | 17,825 | 17,825 |
| | | 486,616 | 841,225 | | 78,132 | 1,405,973 |
| Financial Liabilities | | | | | | |
| Creditors & accruals | 0.00% | | | | - | 67,026 |
| Employee entitlements | 0.00% | | | | - | 206,278 |
| | | | | | | - |
| | | - | - | | - | 273,304 |

b. Credit Risk

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

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

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

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | NOTE | 2011 \$ |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| | 17 TRUST FUNDS | |
| <u>352,097</u> | (a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL Cash at bank and on deposit | <u>387,920</u> |
| <u>241,301</u> | (b) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND Cash at bank and on deposit | <u>241,316</u> |
| <u>14,839</u> | (c) VICTORIA CROSS AND HISTORIC MEDALS TRUST Cash at bank | <u>15,827</u> |
| <u>105,278</u> | (d) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND Cash at bank and on deposit | <u>106,661</u> |
| <u>623,276</u> | (e) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE Cash at bank and on deposit | <u>901,412</u> |
| <u>26,220</u> | (f) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES Cash at bank (Bastiaan Plaques) | <u>27,926</u> |
| <u>123,393</u> | (g) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit | <u>117,073</u> |
| <u>5,329</u> | (h) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank | <u>5,342</u> |
| <u>259,988</u> | (i) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit | <u>290,637</u> |
| <u>349,020</u> | (j) RSL FOUNDATION FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit | <u>335,814</u> |

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

| 2010 \$ | NOTE 18 | 2011 \$ |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| | NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (GENERAL FUND) | |
| | a. Reconciliation of (Loss)/Profit From Ordinary Activities After Related Income Tax to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities | |
| 611,552 | Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities | 428,913 |
| 44,398 | Depreciation and amortisation | 46,398 |
| 35,951 | Staff entitlement provisions | 10,622 |
| | (Increase)/Decrease in assets | |
| 31,876 | Current receivables | (56,774) |
| 6,599 | Current inventories | 3,851 |
| (7,217) | Other current assets | 25,735 |
| (144,113) | Other current liabilities | (11,797) |
| <u>579,046</u> | Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities | <u>446,949</u> |
| | b. Reconciliation of Cash | |
| | Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows: | |
| 891,760 | Cash - working account | 795,894 |
| <u>473,084</u> | Investments - Term deposits | <u>592,754</u> |
| <u>1,364,844</u> | | <u>1,388,648</u> |

c. Cash Flow Statement Accounting Policy

Cash represents highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to cash on hand at the investor's option and which the RSL uses in its cash management function on a day-to-day basis.

d. Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

During the financial year, the RSL traded in plant, Vehicles or equipment with an aggregate fair value of \$21,818. This disposal is reflected in the statement of cash flows.

NOTE 19

DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

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

Registered Office

81 Constitution Avenue
Campbell
ACT 2601

Principal Place of Business

81 Constitution Avenue
Campbell
ACT 2601

Membership Report

Membership Statistics

Nationally, RSL membership at the end of 2011 was:

| State | Service Members | Life, Hon Life/Life Subscribers | Affiliates | Total Members (incl. Affiliates) | % of RSL | Women's Auxiliary Members |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| ACT | 1,551 | 201 | 471 | 2,223 | 1.25% | nil |
| NSW | 45,521 | 1,072 | nil | 46,593 | 26.27% | 3,400 |
| QLD | 22,136 | 15,006 | nil | 37,142 | 20.94% | 900 |
| SA/NT | 6,484 | 849 | 5,380 | 12,713 | 7.17% | 443 |
| TAS | 3,129 | 109 | 1,158 | 4,396 | 2.48% | 307 |
| VIC | 30,719 | 1,633 | 31,923 | 64,275 | 36.24% | 1,350 |
| WA | 8,208 | 211 | 1,584 | 10,003 | 5.64% | 105 |
| TOTAL | 117,748 | 19,081 | 40,516 | 177,345 | 100.00% | 6,505 |

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. These have been progressed in 2011.

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. The advice late in 2011 that changes in state legislation means reciprocal access can be offered to all RSL Service Members at NSW and QLD sub-branches and clubs was welcome news and highlights the importance of the card initiatives taken over the last three years.

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.

Since the merging of the Marketing dimension of RSL activity into the National Membership Forum in 2009, there has been 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 in a more succinct and contemporary form in 2009, a new simplified membership application form was also approved. Early in 2010, a completely re-written sub-branch Membership Officer handbook, reflecting the new By-Law and giving guidance on recruiting and retention strategies was endorsed by National Executive, for distribution to State Branches and sub-branches. Both the revised Bylaw-1, and the membership guidance has been well received.

In 2010 we introduced the RSL Defence Sub-Branch, a web based sub-branch designed exclusively for serving ADF personnel. Its key elements are a national card that offers 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. While numbers have reached a steady state during 2011 we have been pleased with the initial response and in 2012 further development will occur to enhance the sub-branch website, as well as launching a renewed push for more ADF members.

The Defence Sub-Branch website has links to all State Branch and National websites and they **receive a regular members' magazine as well as** e-mail information about RSL activities, services and events. A revised letter that is included with all AFOF parcels also promotes the option of joining the Defence Sub-Branch.

In summary, 2011 has been a year of consolidating some recent renewal work and introducing new membership opportunities. The focus for 2011 has been 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.

MICHAEL ANNETT

Chairman

RSL National Membership and Marketing Forum

Queensland Branch Report

At the 96th RSL Queensland Annual General Meeting and State Congress I shared my belief that it is vital that RSL continues to focus on attracting a younger membership in joint focus with offering advocacy and welfare services. I stressed the need to encourage younger ex-service men and women to join our ranks, in turn ensuring the relevance and security of the League well into the future. We can certainly build on the great work already being undertaken by our sub-branches to achieve this aim. I believe that we should be listening to our current generation, encouraging them to speak out and supporting them in every possible way.

However, it is also important that we be mindful of the past – we must respect the past and secure the future. RSL is comprised of members from several generations, each one unique in interests and experiences, yet equally important. We must engage with the younger generations **using today's communication technology** (Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media) while continuing to embrace more traditional methods of imparting knowledge. While many of our members are computer literate, some have elected not to embrace the technology, and I respect their right to demand more conventional ways of seeking information. This challenge of alternative communication styles is a difficult balancing act, but one which we will manage.

In the 2011/12 Budget handed down by the Government the establishment of the Australian Charities Not-For-Profits Commission was progressed. A Tax Concession Charity (TCC) is a charity that is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office to access one or more tax concessions such as: Income tax exemptions, good and services tax exemptions and, fringe benefit tax rebates or exemptions which replaced the previous Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) status and not-for profits must apply to be endorsed with TCC status. This placed a very large impost on sub-branches to provide reams of paperwork to the State Branch tax team, which was a daunting task for many, especially our smaller sub-branches who have few volunteers. I thank you all for the assistance you have given. The change in status has been managed exceptionally well with the review and report for most of our traditional sub-branches completed and work is well underway to ensure that the larger sub-branches with significant commercial activities are in line with the parameters set out by the Australian Taxation Office.

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held in Brisbane on 26 November it was resolved that the State Rules (2008) of RSL (Queensland Branch) be substituted by a replacement Constitution. It was further resolved to adopt the District Branch Constitution and the Sub-Branch Constitution as model rules. This was the culmination of three years work by the Legislations and Awards Committee working in company with Board **Matter's Senior Consultant, Jennifer Robertson**. This Constitution has been registered with the Office of Fair Trading and is now in effect. I believe that this is the first time in the history of RSL Queensland that a complete rewrite has been undertaken and I congratulate all who have been involved in this most arduous task. There is, of course, much work to be done in relation to District and Sub-Branch Constitutions and I also thank those involved in this project.

In December, the Directors of RSL (Queensland Branch) and the Board of RSL Care held a combined meeting to discuss the way forward. As many of you will be aware, Sam Komarowski has stood down as RSL Care Chairman and after many years of invaluable service to RSL Care, CEO Ross Smith has also moved on. Robert Lippiatt is now seated as the Chairman for RSL Care. Changes to the Aged Care Act and the handing down of the Productivity Commission Report will have a profound impact on the way RSL Care is to conduct its business in the future. RSL Care intends to shift strategic focus to emphasise ageing in place and home care as opposed to the traditional method of low and high care residential living. Following a discussion on **the "deed of trust" which exists between the two** entities it was decided that in the near future the two Boards would come together again to conduct a strategic planning workshop and assess how the organisations can mutually benefit our ageing veterans and their dependants.

The year in review witnessed some significant successes for RSL Queensland with the development of new campaigns and events, while expanding the delivery and engagement of the considerable base of services available to our veterans and ADF members in both the **PAWS and the Veteran's Affairs** portfolios.

Highlights experienced in 2011 include:

- Continuing engagement by RSL (Queensland Branch) in providing evidence informing various DVA Reviews for consideration by the National Office, together with key attendances at various National Forums;

- Given recent experiences in Queensland's 'Summer of Horrors' due to natural disasters, RSL Queensland has proudly developed Disaster Management Guidelines for application across our residential properties;
- New opportunities for PAWS service delivery were explored in 2011, with seven ADF bases in Queensland now enjoying service coverage with large numbers of personnel awaiting deployment to operations throughout the world;
- Assistance was provided to six ADF Transition Seminars state-wide, ensuring RSL Queensland plays a key role in the preparation of service men and women for life after Defence Service;
- Provision of two PAWS Forums, attracting delegates from RSL Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, to ensure that volunteer practitioners are availed of the very latest information for Pension, Advocacy and Welfare to share with their sub-branch members.



PAWS Forum 2011: Training underway for Volunteers and Staff at the PAWS Forum.

RSL Queensland's fundraising efforts continued to grow in 2011, in turn ensuring that we achieved a wider breadth of outcomes for our members, their dependents and the broader community.

- RSL Queensland proudly continued their support to assist at-risk youth by funding Scripture Union Queensland (SU QLD) programs. RSL (Queensland Branch) shares **SU QLD's passion to see our young people** supported and developed to reach their potential;
- The inaugural RSL Soldiers Kokoda initiative was launched in July recognising the sacrifices of those currently serving in the **ADF. RSL Queensland's sponsorship ensured**

twenty-one (21) young Australian soldiers who have suffered injuries while serving in Afghanistan undertook a commemorative trek of the Kokoda Trail to pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.



RSL Soldiers Kokoda 2011: 21 wounded and ill ADF Service men took on a remarkable challenge thanks to RSL Queensland's support

- Thousands of new customers were introduced to RSL Art Union as a way of providing support for RSL, with prizes being offered in premium locations on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Sydney;



Golden Treasure 2011: one of the 10 amazing properties on offer for supporters of RSL Art Union.

- RSL Queensland were proud to produce as many as ten (10) instant millionaires and scores of happy winners;
- The inaugural RSL Bulimba Festival was also launched in August. The rejuvenated community festival, held along Oxford Street in the Brisbane suburb of Bulimba, attracted a crowd of over 35,000 people. The festival was adopted by RSL (Queensland Branch) to promote the interests and welfare of former and serving members of the ADF to the wider community;



Bulimba Festival (August 2011): Crowd gathers to enjoy the sounds of Mental as Anything.

- The 2011 Poppy Appeal celebrated increased fundraising by 20% and also welcomed "Poppyman" to the campaign. Originally adopted to serve as a striking and poignant symbol of remembrance, "Poppyman" will now be the face of future Poppy Appeals given the warm reception of the icon in both Queensland & Tasmania. Westpac once again partnered the Appeal nationally to distribute poppies through Bank branches;



Poppy Appeal 2011: Poppyman joins the crew of the HMAS Wewak

- Given the incredible calibre of applications received for entry to the 2012 RSL Youth Development Program, conducted in partnership with Bond University, the program was expanded to gift a further 20 young Queenslanders the opportunity to achieve their goals.

With an increase of 41% in applicants from the previous year, it is a vital investment in our future.



RSL Youth Development Program: Recipients gathered in November 2011 to celebrate the grant and their talent.

In closing, after the Vietnam War we had a protracted period when Australia was not involved in conflict or peacekeeping activities. Notably, Australia has now been actively engaged in both combat and peacekeeping roles for many years with an intense deployment role for our troops, some of whom have multiple deployments with their time in combat being between three and five years. The effects on these young men and women both physically and mentally are not new to RSL members and pleasingly we are working hard to ensure that we assist the troops when and as the need arises.

I wish to thank the Board of Directors and all the staff at State Branch. And it would be remiss of me not to thank the wives, husbands and partners who allow us to do what we do in assisting the current and ex-service Defence community, together with their dependants.

Thank you one and all.

TERRY MEEHAN
President



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FOLLOW US
[@RSLQueensland](https://twitter.com/RSLQueensland)

New South Wales Branch Report

Annual State Congress

Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, the Governor of NSW for the previous decade and the first woman to hold that office, was awarded Honorary Membership for Life on the opening day of the NSW Branch Annual State Congress.

"I am lost for words," Her Excellency told delegates after State President Don Rowe and National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan presented her with a framed certificate. Professor Bashir is the first Governor of NSW to receive Life Membership while still serving in the vice-regal office.



The Governor of NSW, Prof Marie Bashir, flanked by State President Don Rowe (left) and National President Ken Doolan (right) after she was presented with Honorary Life Membership of the League.

In opening the 95th State Congress, Her Excellency Professor Bashir had outlined her admiration and respect for those who serve their nation in times of conflict, praising veterans for their dedication to duty, and acknowledging the significant role the RSL plays in the community.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, Federal Veterans' Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon and Shadow Minister Michael Ronaldson also addressed the Congress, which was held on May 24 and 25 at the Rooty Hill RSL Club.

A State Council proposal that the NSW Branch accept affiliate membership in accordance with the RSL National Constitution was defeated after a debate in which several small country sub-branches argued that they need affiliate members, while other delegates claimed affiliate membership would water down the ex-military culture of the League.

Elections for State Council positions resulted in little change, with Don Rowe returned as State President for a further three years and John Haines, Bob Crosthwaite and Dr Rod Bain re-elected as Vice-Presidents. Three new State

Councillors were elected: Ann Garland and Darren McManus-Smith as Metropolitan Councillors, and Peter Stephenson to represent Northern Country.

Membership

The death rate among ageing WWII veterans has continued to impact adversely on the NSW Branch membership, despite a concerted recruitment drive among serving and recently retired ADF personnel. At the end of December there were 46,593 members, down from 49,301 a year earlier. Ten years ago the Branch had 76,512 members and 20 years ago membership stood at 107,489.

The number of active sub-branches has also fallen slightly. There are 137 sub-branches in the Sydney metropolitan area, with 24,945 members. In the country area there are 250 sub-branches, and 20,614 members. Unattached members total 1034.

Welfare and Benevolent Institution

During 2011 the RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution received more requests than ever for help, spending more than \$260,000 on support and assistance – almost doubled the figure for 2010. The trustees of the WBI were pleased to be able to support so many veterans and their families.

A change in the dynamics of Pension and Advocacy work has resulted in more Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act claims being handled than DVA claims, as a larger number of younger veterans seek help.

RSL AFOF Visit

State Secretary, Chris Perrin and State Councillor Darren McManus-Smith represented the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund as guests of the ADF in visiting the Middle East and Afghanistan. In Bahrain they were briefed by the RAN Liaison Office on naval operations, including the deployment of HMAS Toowoomba in anti-piracy duties, before travelling to Oman to meet Major General Angus Campbell, Commander Joint Task Force 633, and the crew of the Toowoomba. They were then flown to Tarin Kowt to witness counter-insurgency operations and to meet troops deployed at the Multi-National Base Command. On behalf of AFOF they discussed the needs of ADF personnel deployed overseas and pledged

the support of the RSL, and returned to Australia with a fuller understanding of how RSL AFOF can assist.



State Councillor Darren McManus-Smith (left) and State Secretary Chris Perrin (third from left) with RSMs Johnston and Walker in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan, during their fact finding tour for RSL AFOF.

During 2011 HMAS Toowoomba and HMAS Melbourne, on Operation Slipper, were provided with satellite TV services and RSL AFOF (NSW Division) paid for cultural tours for the ships' crews when they were visiting overseas ports. The NSW division helped with payment for the restoration of the memorial at Tarin Kowt and the issue of Challenge Coins to all ADF personnel serving in Afghanistan on Remembrance Day 2011. Fitness equipment was also sent to RAAF units serving in Dubai.

Commemorations

ANZAC Day

In 2011 ANZAC Day fell on the Easter Monday public holiday and the long weekend, coupled with heavy rain in Sydney, resulted in lower attendances for major commemorations and a smaller turnout by the public.



Rain on ANZAC Day did not deter the 16,000 veterans and descendants who took part in the March through Sydney.

Martin Place was crowded as always for the Dawn Service, but only 16,131 veterans, carers and descendants took part in the March, about 2,000 fewer than in 2010. The Commemoration Service at the ANZAC Memorial and the Sunset Service at the Cenotaph were well attended, as were services conducted by sub-branches throughout suburban and country areas.

VP Day

The annual service at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway continues to grow in stature, and more veterans and their families pay their respects at this venue rather than in Martin Place.

Remembrance Day

A large crowd attended the service at the Cenotaph. The work of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment was acknowledged by its provision of the Catafalque Party and Chaplain Kent Williams, and through the reflection, **delivered by 3RAR's second in command, Major Matthew Vine.**

At the conclusion of the ceremony, State President Don Rowe presented replicas of the medals awarded to the late Corporal Mathew Hopkins to his widow, Victoria, and two-year-old son Alex. Corporal Mathew Hopkins had been **present for Alex's birth but returned to duty in Afghanistan four days later, only to be killed in a Taliban ambush in March 2009.**

Indigenous Veterans

The fifth annual ceremony to honour indigenous veterans took place at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park on May 27 and was attended by NSW Governor, Her Excellency Prof. Marie Bashir and **Premier Barry O'Farrell. The guest speaker was Lieutenant Beimop Justin Tapim, a medical officer in the RAN, and a member of the Dauareb tribe in the Torres Strait islands.**

Scholarships and Awards

Sir Colin Hines Scholarship

The Sir Colin Hines Scholarships are awarded to assist children of Vietnam veterans with their tertiary education. Six scholarships of \$1,200 each, and a certificate, were awarded at a ceremony in June. **This year's** recipients are Shannon Hayman, Rebekah Helyer, James Le, Hoang-Tuong Nguyen-Hao, Alissa Smith and Tynan Bone.

Sir William Yeo Scholarship

Sir William Yeo Scholarships are open to competition among HSC students in NSW who intend to study courses in fields such as Rural Science, Veterinary Science, Agriculture or Agricultural Economics. In 2011 two scholarships (each carrying an allowance of \$600 per annum) were awarded. The recipients are Jessica Dalton and Isobel Pearce.

FS Maher Memorial Scholarship

The FS Maher Memorial Scholarship was established in 1972 to assist in nurse training and education for those involved in caring for ex-servicemen and women. The 2011 scholarships went to Melinda Pestana and Nay Dong (Concord Repatriation General Hospital), Melinda Wolhoff and **Byron O'Neill (Lady Davidson Private Hospital)** and Tony Moraitis (RSL LifeCare).

George Quinsey Trust Fund

The George Quinsey Trust Fund provides six scholarships, for assistance towards enrolment and tuition costs, for descendants of those who served in the Australian Armed Forces and who are enrolled at university or TAFE College to study accountancy, commerce or economics. This **year's recipients are Cohen O'Neill, Daniel Rosen, Scott Jefferies, Mitchell Piper and Reagan Piper.**

Australia My Country

The Australia My Country competition is designed to allow school students to express their thoughts on theme such as sacrifice, loyalty, service and tradition through essays, poetry, visual artwork or electronic media.

There were almost 500 entries (in 15 categories) received this year, with the winners of each category being presented with a cheque for \$100 and a Certificate of Merit at a ceremony at Government House. The 15 winners came from a mix of public and private schools in both the metropolitan and country areas.

Cadets of the Year

The Cadet of the Year competition is run by the NSW Branch in conjunction with the Cadet Services of the ADF. Cadets are assessed in Drill, First Aid, General Knowledge, presentation of a military subject and a personal interview. The winners in 2011 were CDTWO1 Jaydon Cannon (Army Cadets), CDTLS Joshua Werfel (Navy

Cadets), CDTCPPL Brendan Tripp (Air Force Cadets). The winners will sail on SYS Young Endeavour in January 2012.

RSL Young Endeavour Youth Education Sponsorship

In November 2006 the NSW State Council agreed to become a Community Sponsor in the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme. The two candidates selected from the 2011 ballot were Daniel Gash, nominated by Ashfield Sub-branch, and Nicholas Gillies, nominated by Milton-Ulladulla Sub-Branch.

ANZAC Memorial

After extensive restoration works during 2009-10 were completed, the NSW State Government undertook to revise the Memorial Trust Deed and the operation of the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park.

Consequently, the State Branch was appointed Custodian of the ANZAC Memorial. Funds were provided to establish a Corps of Guards who will welcome and guide visitors to the Memorial, particularly at weekends, and assist with commemorative ceremonies.

The 23 Guards who have been trained in volunteering and the ANZAC Memorial's history graduated at a parade in October 2011.



The first members of the Corps of Guards take up their positions at the ANZAC Memorial.

Victorian Branch Report

2011 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 prepare for the introduction of new gaming regulation and commercial arrangements in 2012 and to meet future challenges – structural, demographic and commercial. The Branch Corporate Plan has continued to guide our longer term strategies but the Plan will be recast to cover 2012-2020 as a result of input from the 2011 Future of the League Forum.

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 at HMAS Cerberus and Puckapunyal. Our existing strong profile at RAAF East Sale and Bandiana has also been maintained. As 2010 drew to a close we were providing flood relief payments and this went on into 2011 as in the wake of terrible fires we were now assisting members affected by the water damage in the north of the state.

One area of concern in 2011 has been the significant reduction in BEST Funding, which underpins the administrative support in many of our larger Veteran Centres. Despite the representations of the Victorian Branch these reductions were not substantially changed and adjusting the Veteran Centre Project to remain viable and effective in a reduced BEST grant environment will be a key priority for the RSL and VVAA representatives, in conjunction with the Veteran Centre management committees, in 2012.

The introduction of e-learning modules for MRCA enables 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 pro-active 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 2011 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 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.**

Appeals

Our Appeals underpin much of our commitment to the veteran community, with resources generously donated by the Victorian public. 2011 was another excellent year with new records being set for both the ANZAC and Poppy/Remembrance Day Appeals. Peter Smith continues to bring 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 2011. Using commercial partners to supplement our older veterans in CBD token/poppy sales was expanded beyond 2010 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 continued through 2011 and we will further develop the synergies between marketing our Appeals and also **promoting the League's work more broadly.**

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 Tony Ruddell has been an invaluable back-up in both the Patriotic Funds and Property areas. The Branch staff actively assist sub-branches, especially those licensed sub-branches with commercial activities, in their financial management and during 2011 the need for a pro-active approach in regard to this has been evident. Luke Gilholme is now providing accurate and real time performance data to all our licensed sub-branches to assist them in anticipating 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.

Project 2012

In 2011 the Branch commercial and financial team worked hard on preparing the licensed sub-branch network for the changes to gaming arrangements in 2012.

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.

Mark Johnson progressed key parallel strategies for supporting the 2012 commercial arrangements in terms of a new membership database systems and a member loyalty programme. Detailed work on the new membership system was initiated through our new partners TGS and will be progressed by a Membership Working Group chaired by David Lewien, with our membership team headed by Peter Smith playing a prominent part. Also in 2011 we transitioned from the Licensed Sub-Branch Association to a new Commercial Business Committee and we **welcomed John Mackay's return as the Chair of**

this body. Graham Keating did a tremendous job as the outgoing Chairman of the LSBA Executive but with the close integration of the post 2012 commercial structures into the fabric of the Branch as a whole and the operations of ANZAC House, the CBC will advise the State Executive in precisely the same way as other key committees of the Executive, such as Property and Veterans Affairs/Welfare. The direct connection to the Executive in terms of decisions on strategic direction and governance/skills/training within the **Branch's commercial activity is appropriate and timely.**

Membership

The membership focus for 2011 has remained on building Service member numbers, culminating in an incentive campaign to retain existing members and attract new ones and the maintenance of the online RSL Defence Sub-Branch, a national initiative to gain more serving ADF members administered by the Victorian Branch. Affiliate members also continue to grow, which is vital as they continue to boost numbers and skills 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 continue with membership under his supervision, and the CEO remains involved through his national role in chairing the Membership and Marketing Forum.

The distribution of a completely re-written Membership Handbook with guidance for Sub-Branch Membership Officers in 2010 also stimulated sub-branches to try new methods of attracting younger members and the Branch Open Day in March 2011 was a worthwhile activity 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, 2011 has seen many long serving RSL members, especially from the WWII 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 2011, membership of the Victorian Branch stood at:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Service Members | 30,719 |
| Life Members) | 1,633 |
| Life Subscribers) | |
| Affiliates | <u>31,923</u> |
| Total | 64,275 |

Commemorative Activities – ANZAC and Remembrance Day 2011

ANZAC Day 2011 continued the trend of recent years with strong and growing attendances at the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and several major suburban and regional centres. Preceding ANZAC Day, the Reception at ANZAC House and the Church Service at **St Paul's** Cathedral were both well supported and successful activities. Indeed the Shrine Service was estimated at between 35,000 to 40,000 and strong attendances also supported the March and the Official Commemoration Service that followed. 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.



ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance

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 Essendon in front of a 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 both Kapyeong and Tobruk with veterans from both wars well represented in the motorcade. Veterans were again guests of the AFL for lunch and the match. Thanks to the support of the AFL we were again able to have HMAS Cerberus sailors sell ANZAC tokens at the MCG before the game and we were also able to provide game tickets to our ADF School of Catering staff and trainees who do such a great job for us at the Gunfire Breakfast at the Shrine.

The RSL again conducted the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service at the Springvale War

Cemetery with the Chief of Navy's representative Rear Admiral Michael Uzzel AM RAN as the Guest Speaker. Mal Carson, our convenor did his normal splendid job with the arrangements and the day was very well supported. The Official Commemorative Service at the Shrine on 11 November, presided over by the State Governor, His Excellency Alex Chernov 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.

Women's Auxiliaries

Our Women's Council and the 87 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-Branched continue to give great support to the League. At the State level the decision of the Council to make a further 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 2011

The State Conference was held on 6 July at Caulfield Racecourse and all delegates welcomed the one day format, occasioned by a reducing number of remits and having regard to minimising the expense and inconvenience of two/three days of travel for country and older delegates. After a very pleasant formal dinner on the evening prior to the Conference at ANZAC House for senior guests and State Executive members, the Conference was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor. **The Governor's address** was well received by a strong representation of delegates and the usual strong field of deserving individuals and sub-branches received awards, including successive wins for increasing membership in their category for Sorrento-Portsea Sub-Branch, and the Meritorious Service Medal to Major Frank Bell. A stimulating and thought provoking address was given by Major General Paul Symon, Deputy Chief of Army, who

spoke of his involvement in the veterans commemorative visit to Crete and he filled all present with optimism on how the serving people **of today's ADF will be the strength of the League** in the future.

Important remits were passed on changes to membership post 2012 which will allow sub-branches to retain capitation for 2013 and beyond, and other veterans, welfare and policy matters were either passed to State Government for consideration or to the National Congress for their approval. Branch Office elections results were announced, with the State President, Senior Vice and Vice President positions, and the Honorary Treasurer position continuing unchanged for 2011/2012.



State President DJ McLachlan AO and CEO Michael Annett CSC at the Victorian State Conference

Community Engagement

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 2011 were:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Navy | Geraldine Gray |
| Army | Katrina Davis |
| Air Force | Mitchell Wilson |

with the Young Endeavour prize winner being Katrina Davis.

This year 72 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 continues to do a wonderful job in this role.

The Victorian Branch looks forward to 2012 with confidence, having made some important strategic decisions about our future in a cohesive and League minded way at our 2011 Future of the League Forum in late November, and also successfully supported, some very important National Headquarters initiatives. We continue as a Branch to maintain our core welfare, commemorative and educational objectives in a contemporary and innovative fashion.

All the State Branch Staff reflect professionalism and an unstinting commitment to the League and its objectives in 2011 and are motivated by the many volunteers who work at ANZAC House as they are an integral part of what we deliver and achieve. They remain a great inspiration and **reflect the bedrock of the RSL's values and capacity.**

South Australian Branch Report



Jock Statton
State President

2011 was a particularly land mark year for the RSL in South Australia, the Northern Territory and Broken Hill.

The year began with us marking the 110th Anniversary of the Navy and the Army, the 100th Anniversary of the RAN and the 90th Anniversary of the RAAF. The milestone for the Navy was celebrated in March with several local events and here in Adelaide there was a memorial service and a reception hosted by the Governor of South Australia (a fine upstanding Naval Officer himself).



Celebrating 100 Years of the RAN

New Constitution and Board

In 2010 the RSL-SA State Board and the State Council discussed the structure of the RSL-SA Executive in order to modernize our business practices and improve our links into the sub-branches. Subsequently this led to far reaching changes in the Executive structure, the State Council and Board have been abolished in their current form replaced with a streamlined Board which includes elected and appointed members (elected members outnumber appointed members by 2 to 1) and a group of regionally based Coordinators who manage regular meetings between HQ staff and their sub-branches. These changes were included in a re-vamped Constitution and voted on by the members on Saturday 09 April 2011. The members voted to

adopt the new procedures and the new rules took affect affect at the Annual Sub-Branch Conference in July 2011. The State President praised the previous State Board for their foresight in seeking a new future for the RSL.



As such the new State Board members are: Mr Tim Hanna, Mrs Jill Hoare, Mr Steve Larkins, Mr Haydn Madigan, our new elected members; Mr Rick Harley (Law), Mr Dennis Chamberlain (Aged Care) and LTCOL Doug Langrehr, Deputy Commander 1 Brigade, our new appointed members. Mr Jock Statton and Mr Frank Owen will remain for another year.

New Developments

We are working very closely with local inner city Councils for joint ventures in West Torrens, Prospect and Norwood. Development briefs have been written and several proposals are being considered. RSL input was sought and supplied, and once final draft proposals are received they will be submitted for the Board to peruse prior to meeting with the sub-branches involved.



The RSL State Board and the War Veterans Home Board (WVH) have signed an agreement to merge the management of all the RSL Aged Care and

Affordable Housing. The RSL operates, through its various entities, a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) at Angle Park (RSL Villas) as well as a number of affordable housing units located in various sites across the state.

The WVH is a separately incorporated entity and has operated as such for many years, however under its Constitution the owner is the RSL. The WVH operates at the Myrtle Bank site a RACF as well as a Retirement Village.



The Boards agreed that there was a natural overlap and potential synergy in the services that both organisations provide particularly as the common target client group is the veteran community which warrants the services to be consolidated into one entity.

DFRDB Fair Indexation Bill

After the loss of this Bill in the Senate by one vote, RSL-SA wrote a letter to all **SA and NT MP's** and Senators expressing our outrage at this injustice. We continue to meet with, and lobby our local members and Senators to further this cause.

New Staff

Headquarters RSL-SA has some new faces; Cheryl Coyne has joined as the Shop Front Coordinator to help Carol Foster run the front desk. David Lyas has joined as the Assistant Events Coordinator to help Karen Marchant and the Committee coordinate ANZAC Day and other such important RSL sponsored events. Joy Handicott is

our representative in the NT, she will work with me to try to boost our focus in the NT and support the good work the military entitlements volunteers are doing for our NT based veterans. Mark Keynes has joined us as the Project Development Officer. He will work with myself and sub-branches on new developments in Norwood, West Torrens and Prospect and provide assistance to sub-branches when needed.

Ursula Thornquest has been bought on board to assist us in the Public Relations area to boost our corporate sponsorship and public image; she has been a key factor in our new look publication: *The Signal*.



Membership

Wendy Rydon our Operations Manager and her staff developed a new way of managing Membership renewals. All members received individual membership renewals in the post as opposed to inserts in *The Signal*. We updated our systems to allow for easier payment facilities and will promote the benefits, such as the Ambassador Card, to our members and the community. They also outlined a proposal to standardize Affiliate membership to allow a more streamlined and centralised process to be adopted; this will developed further in the future.

Conclusion

2011 saw a new Constitution, a new Board, new Membership process and a new direction for our Aged Care and Affordable Housing arm. It has been our busiest year to date but also our most successful and rewarding.

Western Australia Branch Report



Bill Gaynor
State President

In our 96th year of operation of the State Branch, significant advances have been made in our operations to ensure we remain relevant and effective in dealing with veteran and social issues in an ever changing social, economic and political environment. In reviewing our operations there is confidence that those advances will ensure the future prosperity of the League. The years of planning have resulted in the establishment of an ethic that remains focussed on service and a commitment to excellence in all our dealings.

This year marks the conclusion of a triennium that has seen stability in the governance of the Branch. That stability led us towards a restructure of our operations but, due to constitutional requirements, we were not able to effectively implement, nor achieve, change across all areas of our operations. Our current organisational structure is sound and contributes positively to our interaction with the corporate environment in which we operate. We continue to enjoy the benefits of support from the business community; however, at all times we zealously guard our traditional role, that of serving the veteran community.

The framework in which we operate is The RSL WA Branch Corporate Plan; it is a living document and a guide to our operations. It is subject to regular internal and external review and provides direction and goals. It is a guide by which we measure performance against outcomes. The current Corporate Plan expires at the end of the triennium and major adjustments will need to be made as we rewrite the plan for the future.

Governance Statement

The State Executive and Board of Directors are elected for a three-year term and administer the State Branch on behalf of all members. They are assisted by a network of volunteers and sub committees that strive to achieve positive results in their areas of expertise. All officers work in a voluntary capacity and give freely of their time and knowledge to achieve outcomes that are consistent with our Charter. As the peak ex-service organisation in Western Australia, RSL demonstrates strong leadership in the veteran community and contributes responsibly with comment on many social and community issues.

Without hesitation, RSL regularly challenges decisions that have or could impact on veterans and at all times have stood steadfastly for those traditional values that are essential in our society. In that context we continue to maintain a strong a-political position and, as such, have enjoyed the on-going support from both sides of Parliament at Commonwealth and State level.

Through our sub-branch network, we also enjoy an excellent and supportive relationship with the many local authorities throughout Western Australia. Our responsible comments, coupled with a willingness to address controversial issues places us in high esteem with the media and the general public. This has led to our office bearers being regularly consulted on topical issues with the invitation to make public comment on social, **commemorative, security and veterans' affairs** matters. It is pleasing to note that, without exception, all comments and representations are made with a high degree of professionalism.

We are determined to present a good public image by encouraging our sub-branches and members to present RSL as a caring organisation that takes the welfare of veterans and the future security and development of our country seriously. I am convinced that we do this well.

Welfare

The welfare of the veterans and their families is **one of the founding principles of the League's** Charter. Those principles are as valid today as they were in 1916. The welfare operation of the State Branch is continually reviewed and from that review an enhanced method of attending to the needs of those seeking assistance is instituted. Using the standard service delivery model the operations were relocated to a separate facility thus enhancing confidentiality of interviews and services delivered. Funding sources for veteran's welfare is generated by grants from Lotterywest, bequests and donations from supportive donors as well as from the Aged Fund. Allocations from these sources allow us to service the operations and fund veterans accordingly.

In the year under review well over \$150,000 was expended on State Branch welfare operations and in the present economic climate, demand on welfare funds is on the increase. Of prime concern, however, is our interest in knowing if there are veterans in need or necessitous circumstances in the area so they can be serviced through RSL Welfare and also explore every option available to attend to the welfare needs of veterans living in country locations. Collections from the Annual Poppy Day Appeal fund a large

portion of our welfare operations at State Branch and the Amelioration Accounts at sub-branches allow for on-site welfare grants to be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Fund Act. In recent times compliance with the statutory requirements of the collection process has come under scrutiny and processes are in place to allow accountability to be demonstrated.

Veteran Affairs

The Veteran Affairs' Committee, with representation across all services and key ESOs, undertake a monitoring and initiative developing role. It demonstrates a strong perspective of the needs of various groups within the veteran community and is well placed to initiate action to preserve the best interests of the veteran. Positive relationships are developed with officers of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and this provides a valuable communications link which facilitates the prompt resolution of problems.

Our participation on consultative committees permit input to programs and processes that benefit both the administration and the veteran. In the period under review RSL trialled a new method of service delivery to veterans, but when problems emerged in the quality of service offered, a return to traditional services was instituted with greater client satisfaction evident. Since then there has been careful monitoring of the quality of services offered to veterans and of the service delivery by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Problems encountered were identified and quickly addressed.

Through the State Veteran Affairs' Committee there is input into the establishment of League priorities for budget consideration by government. For years there has been lobbying for the Government to redress the many inequities evident **in veteran's welfare** and at last, through logically presented argument, we are pleased to see that the Budget and election promises were significantly enhanced in support of the veteran community.

While being mindful of the achievements realised through the collective endeavours of many ESOs, there are other issues that need to be dealt with and again, our input to the National Veterans' Affairs Committee will be considered as we re-order our priorities for future budgets.

Advocacy

Our Advocates provide a first class service to veterans who seek their assistance. A highly trained small group of volunteers are rostered to provide a daily service that is used to capacity. This has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of advocacy work being undertaken by our team

operating out of the ANZAC House Veterans Centre. We have extended our Pension and advocacy services to HMAS STIRLING and SASR members seeking the services of our operational team. Our advocacy work has been extended to country and regional locations with regular visits by pension officers and advocates, who not only service veterans but also provide a much needed mentor role for local practitioners.

As a quality service is essential in pension and advocacy work an accreditation process by which those practicing under RSL are required to undertake regular updates and re-accreditation to be able to continue to practice. This is a major step in assuring veterans of a quality service.

Advocacy has become more complex particularly **with increasing variations to operative veterans' legislation**, and therefore the skills necessary to act in the best interests of the veteran need to be improved. Thanks to various funding sources we have been able to undertake professional development of our staff, both paid and volunteers. This has provided skills training in claims associated with VEA, SRCA and MRCA. As younger veterans will come under the provisions of the new legislation we are proud to be able to offer such a service. For the statistically minded, out of ANZAC House Pension and Advocacy Services in the last 12 months we received around 1500 telephone calls - enquiries and assistance - and devoted some 4500 man hours servicing veterans in their queries and claims.

RSL Care WA

Earlier this year the divestment of the RSL WA Retirement and Aged Care Association (Inc) occurred. This action was necessary due to on-going taxation issues with the relationship between the two entities. Essentially, RSL WA could not financially benefit from owning the Aged Care facility as funds could not be transferred from the Homes - with a higher tax status to its owner - the RSL with a lower tax status. To rectify this on-going problem it was decided to divest RSL of the Homes and use the proceeds of the sale to establish the State Branch of the League on a firm financial footing with an assured financial future. Part of the divestment agreement required a dominance of RSL members on the new Board of Management of the Homes and it was expected the interests of the RSL, during and beyond the transition period, would be preserved.

Finance

With the divestment of the Aged Care facilities, the **League's financial position improved and**, considering the current economic climate I believe that to be a great achievement. We have adjusted

to the challenges of cost increases attributed to salaries, cost of service delivery and generally operating a small business by staff rationalisation and restructuring our audit and insurance requirements. We have contained operational losses at the ANZAC Club but have not compromised servicing the membership in this area. There has been strict adherence to the budget and constant reviews of income and expenditure profiles. This has limited any losses and the additional income sourced through grants and sponsorship has enabled us to maintain the services required by the membership. The Branch is in receipt of financial grants that assist our operations.

Through the generosity of Lotterywest, Department of Veterans' Affairs and sponsors we are able to support our many veteran and community activities. All these bodies value the sacrifices and contribution veterans have made for their country and are always willing to support needy causes with a strong account scrutiny in place.

ANZAC Club

In the period under review the ANZAC Club has experienced a marked increase in patronage. The enhanced service delivery has attracted not only League members but also good support from the corporate world and the general public. We have been able to promote the use of the Gallipoli Room as a conference venue and this is proving popular with local business as a training course venue.

Staffing ANZAC Club has proved a challenge in the current economic boom times. Managerial staff in the hospitality industry are in constant demand but I am confident that our present manager and chef, supported by our permanent and casual staff will emerge as a cohesive team that will serve us for quite some time to come. It has been a hard task but the **ANZAC Club's financial position has shown** a marked improvement with operational percentages moving closer to industry standards. It still has some way to go but we are getting there.

Victoria Cross Library/Archives

The relocation of the Library facility to Level 1 is complete and we anticipate it will be a facility that will encourage research with internet access available to members. The Library enjoys support from publishers and authors who donate books.

Our Archivist, her staff and volunteers have been proactive, and with the support of Lotterywest there has been significant moves to preserve and record our 96 years of League history for future generations. This facility has encompassed sub-

branches and the information that is being uncovered is quite staggering. The volunteers and staff have recently completed the process of alphabetically sorting all membership cards, from the inception of the League in WA, through to when records became computerised.

Membership

Our membership numbers are stable at around 10,003 members including Affiliates. The growth in new members is keeping pace with losses through death of our aged Second World War veterans. We maintain our well resourced and aggressive recruitment program and this is paying dividends, particularly in country regions. The **concept of 'Post Box sub-branches' has been** welcomed by many smaller sub-branches in danger of closing due to declining numbers. This format will see an RSL presence retained in the regional areas. A further refinement to the operation of smaller sub-branches has emerged with larger nearby sub-branch offering administrative support to their neighbours.

RSL Youth Affairs Group

This active group is responsible for the Cadet of the Year Program. For some ten years the program has seen Service Cadets participate in leadership and adventure activities designed to assist them in their leadership roles, not only in their Cadet Units but also in the wider community.



Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD, Reid Gunter, Marco Spadacinni, Jordan Hughes, Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall, Mr Denis Connelly, Campbell Christie, Elizabeth Kennon, Ms Olga Greig, Amanda Ward.

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

The group also oversees the Cadet Efficiency Trophy which is financially supported by Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU) and results in the award of a perpetual and annual shield to the most efficient Navy, Army and Air Force Cadet Unit in Western Australia together with a cheque for \$1,000 to each of the winning Units.

The 2012 Winners were:

- TS VANCOUVER – Albany
- 53 ACU - Wanneroo
- 712 SQN – Midland

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

Marketing

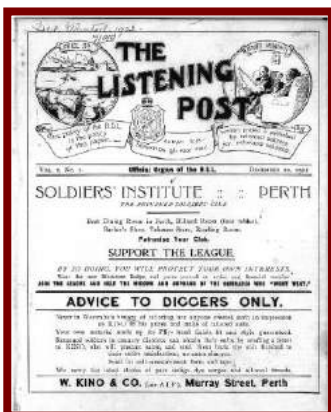
Marketing has been identified as one of the focus areas for development in anticipation that, if well handled, it could deliver long-term benefits to the League and the membership. Significant advances have been made in attracting a group of corporate supporters who are willing to assist the veteran community. Their involvement has shown there will be benefits for our members. Our supporters are more than willing to be associated with that great Australian icon, the RSL. The obvious point of all our marketing effort is to increase the League's profile in the community as well as attract revenues from which we can continue to provide welfare services and fellowship opportunities to our members.

Defence

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

Communications

Our communication strategy with the membership is centred on print media. The bi-monthly publication The Listening Post is our main link with the membership with a distribution of just over 10,000 copies and approx 30,000 readers.



*The Listening Post –
Volume 1 Number 1:
December 1921*

This is supplemented with the issue to sub-branches and Unit & Kindred Associations of the monthly newsletter The Sub-Branch Signal. This keeps those who attend sub-branch meetings informed on the activities of State

Executive and the Board of Directors with respect to policy and other matters affecting the day to day running of the Branch. To further enhance our communication strategies we are investigating the possibility of a weekly e-mail video presentation on topical issues to members who have e-mail connectivity.

The Sub-Branch Signal and The Listening Post are on the web and we plan to have our site as a major reference point for information on RSL and veteran matters. However, the best communication is through a personal approach. State Executive members have personally visited many city and country sub-branches and as funding permits we expect to extend those visits in the near future.

The warmth of the welcome and the diverse range of issues discussed certainly gave the Executive a greater insight to how RSL operates in regional Western Australia. Our challenge is to see that our organisation continues to be represented in rural communities and that the values we support are not lost. Our Membership Card initiative has produced a value-add bonus for the membership. A range of discounts are available upon the production of a valid RSL Membership Card and this is set to expand in future years.

Commemorative Services

The State War Memorial continues to be the principal place for RSL Commemorative Services. Apart from the RSL conducted ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Service the War Memorial and its precinct are used by other Ex-Service Organisations and community groups to honour their fallen.

ANZAC Day Services continue to be well supported with reported increases in attendances throughout the State. In Perth over 45,000 were in attendance at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and up to 30,000 attended the March through the City and the Service on the Perth Esplanade. The pleasing feature is the family participation that is emerging. If this trend continues the future of ANZAC Day as a time when we can honour our fallen is assured. The generous local community support and the financial assistance from Lotterywest in funding ANZAC Day Services, not only in Perth but also in regional areas are acknowledged. In particular, **Lotterywest's commitment to further** enhance services by funding Gunfire Breakfasts in Perth and regional areas is a most welcome gesture that is certain to be taken up.

The support given to schools and community groups by sub-branches is also welcomed and continues to grow. That support is valued by the younger generation who have a thirst for

knowledge of the sacrifices made by their parents and grandparents in the defence of their country.

Sub-Branches

Our organisational structure is based on a sub-branch network. Currently we have 130 active sub-branches on the State Register and they all do a magnificent job in servicing the needs of the veteran. In addition to sub-branches we have established interest groups that have undertaken **RSL's commemoration role in small rural areas** where there were once sub-branches. While we regret the loss of a sub-branch we are delighted that the local community is taking up the important role of remembering the sacrifices made by veterans in the defence of our country. RSL caters for all veterans of all conflicts and our charter requires us to service veterans whether they are members or not. On that basis our work is truly humanitarian.

Our sub-branches are the public face of the RSL and I am proud of the manner in which our organisation presents itself in the community. Working in association with sub-branches are the **ladies of the Women's Auxiliary**. This dedicated group have for years supported the RSL in social activities, fund raising and caring for and visiting our elderly and sick veterans. Although diminishing in numbers they still fulfil a vital role and their work is very much appreciated.

State Branch

This year marks the beginning of a new triennium. The elections process for State Executive is in progress and the Returning Officer will announce the appointments for the next three-year period. May I then take this opportunity to thank all who have served on the State Executive and their various sub committees over the past three years. They have built a strong foundation that will see the League prosper in future years.

Priority initiatives will be:

- Planning activities for the Centenary of ANZAC
- Continuation of strong alliances with Corporate entities
- Support sub-branch operations through regular visits and training modules; and
- An enhancement of our leadership role in the veteran community
- Enhance our commitment to care for those in need or necessitous circumstances.

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 and members in touch. The reports that are furnished provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country outposts. Well done, and our sincere thanks. Without specifically mentioning any particular staff **member I can acknowledge them as 'The Team'**. The volunteers value your support and professionalism, as does the wider veteran community. Mention must also be made of the contribution made by the Department of Veterans' Affairs staff for their work in the veteran community.

Finally, the Branch acknowledges the support given to the League by our past Patron, Dr Ken Michael AC previous Governor of Western Australia. Dr Michael and Mrs Michael were willing participant in League activities and we valued their support.



Presentation for our ex-Governor; Mr Philip Orchard, Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD, Mrs Julie Michael, Mr Ken Michael AC, Mrs Joan Gaynor, Mrs Elaine Doolan, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd).

On that note, we now welcome Mr Malcolm McCusker AO CVO QC and Mrs McCusker as Governor of Western Australia and RSL Patron.

Conclusion

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

WILLIAM E GAYNOR OAM RFD
State President

Tasmanian Branch Report



William (Bill) Kaine MBE
State President

Annual State Congress

On the 13th/14th of May 2011 the Glenorchy RSL Sub-Branch hosted the Annual State Congress. The venue for the Congress was the Glenorchy **Civic Centre, with the 'Meet & Greet' being held** the evening before at the Sub-Branch rooms. The Congress Dinner was held at Tattersalls Park, Glenorchy on the Friday evening.

The Congress was attended by 78 delegates, representing 39 Sub-branches, and was officially opened by His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania.

RSL Official Guests included the National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd); Deputy National President, Mr Don Rowe OAM; CEO of RSL (Queensland Branch), Mr Chris McHugh CSC. Other Official Guests included the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson; **State Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Bryan Green MP, State Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Adam Brooks MP; Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Mr Ian Campbell; Deputy Commissioner for DVA – Tasmania, Ms Jan Hyde; and representatives from the Department of Defence.**

During the Official Opening, His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania and the National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) presented Life Memberships to the following members:

- Mr Barry Giani, Burnie RSL Sub-branch
- Mr Jerry Keep, Glenorchy RSL Sub-branch
- Mr Geoff Smith, Primrose Sands RSL Sub-branch
- Mr Henry Jager, St Helens-St Marys RSL Sub-branch

Life Memberships were also awarded to Mr Peter Fyfe of the Huon RSL Sub-branch, which was presented to Peter on ANZAC Day, and to Mr

Bruce Myers of the Penguin RSL Sub-branch which was presented after Congress at a sub-branch event.

On day two of Congress new Charters were presented to the following sub-branches:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Beaconsfield | Lilydale |
| Bridport | Lindisfarne |
| Brighton Green Ponds | Penguin |
| Burnie | Primrose Sands |
| Claremont | Railton |
| Clarence | Rosebery |
| Cygnets | Sheffield |
| Dunalley | Smithton |
| George Town | Sorell |
| Glenorchy | South Arm |
| Greater Hobart | Spring Bay |
| Huon | St Helens-St Marys |
| King Island | Tasman |
| Kingborough | Ulverstone |
| Kingston Beach | Wynyard |
| Launceston | Zeehan |
| Lenah Valley | |

Tax Concession Charity Status

On the 3rd of November 2011 the Deed of Agreement between the RSL (Tasmania Branch), RSL (Tasmania) Sub-Branches and the Australian Taxation Office was signed. This was a very significant event and was the culmination of almost three years work. The State Branch and all Sub-Branches now have the Tax Concession Charity status.

During the course of gaining the Charity status many former stand-alone RSL Clubs and **Ex-Servicemen's Clubs were merged with the local** RSL Sub-branch to form a new incorporated RSL Sub-branch. The League in Tasmania gained significant property holdings and those former entities, once merged gained the benefits of the Charity status. Many have now gained exemption from General Rates from their local Councils because they exist for charitable purposes.

The exercise has resulted in a huge benefit to RSL (Tasmania Branch) and has placed our sub-branches in a strong position to move into the future. New Charters have been issued to all sub-branches.

Membership

Whilst Service membership has remained steady there has been a marked increase in Affiliate membership throughout the year. This is attributed to the mergers of many Sub-branch and Ex Services Clubs which brought into the newly merged sub-branch a large number of Social members. The Social members are progressively changing their membership status to Affiliate and, with continued encouragement it is envisaged that this will increase throughout 2012. As many of our smaller sub-branches begin to struggle to have enough Service members to make up their committees, it is the Affiliate who can now step up and fill a number of the positions. Affiliate membership is strongly encouraged in Tasmania as we see it as a means of ensuring the existence of our small country sub-branches for many years into the future.

Commemoration

ANZAC Day continues to gain in popularity and this year, as in previous years, the number of youth and younger children attending both Dawn Services and Main Services has risen quite considerably.

In preparation for the 2011 ANZAC Day Commemorations the former ANZAC Day Committee was disbanded and a new committee, the Hobart ANZAC Day Commemorations Committee was formed. The Chair is Colonel Michael Romalis, an active Army Reservist and current President of the Tasmania Branch of the Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association. The newly appointed Parade Marshal is Major Peter Hind, also an active Army Reservist. The new Committee is a dedicated group who ensured that the 2011 Hobart March was a very professional event.

ANZAC Day services were held in every town in Tasmania where an RSL Sub-branch is located. In every instance it was reported that crowd numbers were up on the previous year. We continue to ensure that our education program is being presented to schools and as a result this year saw two school Memorial Gardens established and an increase in requests from schools to have an RSL guest speaker at assemblies prior to ANZAC Day.

Anglesea 200

In December 2011, Anglesea Barracks in Hobart celebrated its 200th Anniversary. It was a **birthday befitting Australia's oldest continually**

occupied barracks – an event its founder, Governor Lachlan Macquarie, would certainly have approved of.

As the gates of **Hobart's Anglesea Barracks** opened on the first weekend in December, record crowds came to join the bicentenary of this unique historical precinct.

"The bicentenary saw the Barracks and the skies above host the largest display of the Australian Defence Organisation ever held in the State," said Anglesea 200 Project Director LTCOL Helen McPherson.



Her Excellency the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC, CVO reviewed a parade by the Australian Federation Guard and Australian Army Band – Tasmania before unveiling a plaque marking the event.

Interactive displays were provided by the three Services included a number of displays with DMO providing a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle as well as the latest equipment through the Diggerworks program.

Navy presented an Augusta A109 helicopter on the helipad, while RANR divers from CDT10 demonstrated their skills in a large dive tank, attracting many fascinated children.

Around the precinct, Tasmanian based Reserve and Cadet units and ex-service groups hosted a series of displays, with the Australian Army Band - Tasmania providing popular musical entertainment. Overhead the RAAF Roulettes showcased their flying skills in the sky over the Barracks in one of the most impressive displays seen over Hobart.

Staff from the RSL (Tasmania) State Branch set up a stall underneath the verandah of Navy Headquarters Tasmania, selling merchandise and answering membership and general questions.

Project Manager for Anglesea 200, Lieutenant Colonel Helen Macpherson, said it will be at least another 30 years before another barracks will celebrate a bicentennial achievement.

"Anglesea Barracks is the oldest Barracks still in continual use by the ADF and while Anglesea 200 is about celebrating this history, it is also about acknowledging the role the Barracks plays today as the centre of Defence in Tasmania. The success of the bicentenary highlights that Anglesea Barracks remains closely linked with the Tasmanian community."

The occasion was marked by the release of a book, *Barrack Hill – A History of Anglesea Barracks 1811 – 2011* by authors John Lennox and John Wadsley which remains available through the Military Museum of Tasmania.

Younger Veterans' Memorial

A unique memorial commemorating the service of Defence, Police and UN personnel who have served on UN and post Vietnam operations was dedicated at Anglesea Barracks on International Peacekeepers Day on May 29th, 2011.

Attended by His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania, State and Federal politicians, members of the RSL and other ex-service organisations, senior ADF representatives, Tasmania Police officers, and Defence and Police peacekeepers, the dedication ceremony took place in the historical Memorial Garden at the rear of the Barracks.

Attending the dedication were several younger veterans from the 12th/40th Battalion, the Royal Tasmania Regiment and 16th Field Battery who recently returned from peacekeeping operations in the Solomon Islands.

The statue of a peacekeeper carrying a child over rough ground was designed and sculpted by Geeveston based artist, Bernie Tarr – who is also a Vietnam veteran.

While the Memorial commemorates those who have lost their lives on peacekeeping and peacemaking (warlike) operations, it also recognises the contribution and commitment of those Defence, Police and civilians who are currently serving overseas on such operations.

The dedication was the culmination of the work of a group led by Mr Tony Richings with representatives from the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans' Association, RSL

(Tasmania), Defence and DVA selecting the design from three submissions.



His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania, talks about the memorial design with sculptor Bernie Tarr.

The Memorial will be used for commemorations **on International Peacekeeper's Day in May**, Australian Peacekeepers Day in September and on other significant dates.

Support for the construction of the Memorial has come from a number of sources, including the State Government, Department of Defence, RSL (Tasmania Branch), Hobart RSL Sub-Branch, **Department of Veterans' Affairs, Anglesea Barracks Officers' and Sergeant's Messes**, the 12th/40th Battalion Regimental Trust Fund, Defence Health, and the Naval Military and Air Force Club.

Youth Program - Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize

Six Tasmanian students will visit significant war sites in France and Belgium next year after winning the 2011 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize.

On the 4th of October the Minister for Education and Skills, Nick McKim, announced the winners of the prize which honours **Tasmanian's last World War I** veteran Frank MacDonald MM, who died in 2003 at the age of 107.

Mr McKim said "The prize was created by the State Government and RSL Tasmania to honour **Frank's memory and ensure that Tasmanian** students learn more about our history and keep the ANZAC spirit alive. Through this prize, students come to appreciate not only the historical time and dates of important events, but

the stories of courage, mateship and the finer details of day to day life on the battlefields.

To date 39 Tasmanian students have had the opportunity to experience this once in a lifetime trip through the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. The 2011 Prize was open to year 9 Tasmanian students from Government and non-Government schools, as well as home-schooled students in the same year level." Mr McKim said "the Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize is of significant benefit to all Tasmanians, promoting the continuing remembrance, knowledge and understanding of Tasmanian and Australian war history and significant events in history in general."



The 2011 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize Winners are:

Samantha Beswick (Wynyard High);
Molly Cordwell (Ogilvie High)
Robert Evans (Riverside High);
Nikayla Roach (Sacred Heart College)
Jacqueline Smedley (Marist Regional College);
and Josie Thompson (Devonport High).

Teachers accompanying the winners are: Tim Dunham (Riverside High) and Wendy Frost (Ogilvie High). The RSL (Tasmania Branch) representative is Mr Geoff Leitch, Vice President Northern Division.

Australian Capital Territory Branch Report



State President
John King

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 2011. **This year's recipients were** Frank Boyle OAM, GPCAPT Arthur Skimin (Retd) and AVM Mac Weller AM (Retd).



Australia Day Medallion recipients (left to right) GPCAPT Arthur Skimin, Arthur Boyle, John King and AVM Mac Weller.

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 overseas 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 I visited the Port Moresby Sub-Branch and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Wally Lussick OBE RSL Memorial and Education Trust Fund. Whilst there I also visited the Port Moresby Grammar School to visit the

students provided with a national RSL Education Scholarship the previous year. The Port Moresby Sub-Branch is continuing with its work in the local community organising ceremonies both for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. The Branch also appreciates the assistance provided by the staff of the Australian and New Zealand High commissions and Australian Defence Force staff posted to the PNG for their enthusiastic assistance throughout the year.

Commemorative Events

As with previous years 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. I note that as the years progress there are more and more events being added to the ceremonial calendar

ANZAC Day Activities

Pre-ANZAC Day wreath-laying ceremony

The Australian War Memorial and the Department of **Veterans' Affairs** again jointly arranged a 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, buses and special seating were provided. While the ceremony is also well supported by the many aged care facilities in the ACT region, it holds a special meaning to the residents of Sir Leslie Morshead Home for Veterans and Aged Persons.

ACT Schools ANZAC Ceremonies

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 from the Embassy of Turkey who spoke of the sacrifices made by both the ANZACS and the Turkish defenders at Gallipoli.

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

Dawn Service

Another cold Canberra morning again did not deter the large numbers (estimated at around 20,000) who were in attendance. The State President, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC (Retd) (Chairman of the AWM Council) and Major General Steve Gower AO AO(Mil) (Director of the Australian War Memorial), with their wives, greeted His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Administrator 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 Mr David Knight, President of the Tuggeranong Sub-Branch and Commander David Hedgley, Acting, 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. Chaplain (WGCDR) Mark Willis, Canberra Royal Australian Air Force Chaplain provided the Recitation for ANZAC Day, with Junior Legatee Mark MacInnees reading the poem "*In Flanders Fields*". It is of note that this service is broadcast live throughout Australia by the ABC and radio and television networks.

ANZAC Day March and Commemorative Service

Attendance at this year's program was estimated to be slightly larger than last year, and included the Honourable Nicola Roxon MP (representing the Prime Minister of Australia), Mr Vangelis (Acting New Zealand High Commissioner) and Ms Taniya Jurado, among other VIPs and dignitaries. The Honourable Nicola Roxon MP took the Salute, with the march being jointly led by Mr John King, ACT Branch President, and Commander David Hedgley RNZN, Acting Defence Adviser, New Zealand High Commission.

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 thanks go to the Chairman, Director and staff of the Australian War Memorial committees, 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, and following the commemorations in ANZAC Parade, the Ambassador of France held a memorial service in the grounds of the Embassy of France during which Branch President, Mr John King laid a wreath. This was followed by a formal reception in the Embassy residence.

Other Commemorative Events

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

- **National Servicemen's Memorial Service**
- ADFA Chief of Defence Force Parade
- **Trooping of the Queen's Colour at RMC**
- RMC Prizes and Sporting Awards Ceremony
- RMC Full Time GSO Graduation Parade
- Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces Day ceremony
- **Japan's Self-Defence Forces Day luncheon** at the Japanese Embassy
- **Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Ceremony**
- Battle for Australia Commemorative Ceremony
- Greek OXI Day ceremony at Australian-Greek Memorial
- National Merchant Navy Annual Memorial Service
- Japanese Embassy reception to honour the Emperor's birthday
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial
- Embassy of France Remembrance Day ceremony and reception
- RMC Prize Giving and Graduation Parade
- ADFA Prizes and Awards ceremony
- Chief of Navy's Official Reception

Branch Congress

The ACT Branch Congress was again held at the Hellenic Club, Canberra on Friday, 24 June 2011. This 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 Honourable Warren Snowdon, **MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs** who formally opened the Congress and presented League Awards to well-deserving recipients. Other speakers included RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), (National President RSL), Senator the Honourable Michael Ronaldson, (Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs), and Mr Ian Campbell, PSM, (Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs).

These speakers were complemented by other VIP guests including, in alphabetical order, Mr Shane Carmody (Deputy President DVA), Ms Jennifer Collins (Deputy Commissioner DVA), Mr Sean Farrelly (Deputy General Manager DVA), Senator Gary Humphries, Mr Derek Robson AM, (RSL National Secretary), representatives of the Service Chiefs. Also in attendance were past ACT Branch Presidents Gary Brodie OAM, BRIG Peter Evans (Retd) and Derek Roylance AM, and representatives from Kindred Service Organisations.

Branch Executive

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

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Branch President | Mr John King |
| Deputy President | Mrs June Healy OAM |
| Vice President | Mr Rod Bennett |
| Vice President | Mr David Millar |
| Vice President | Mr Jan Paulga |
| Branch Treasurer | Mr Mickey Michaelis |
| Minute Secretary | Mr Paul Bohun |

League Awards

The following were presented with League Awards and Certificates by the Minister for **Veterans' Affairs:**

Meritorious Service Award

Mr Derek John Roylance AM



Mr Derek Roylance AM receiving his award of Meritorious Service Medal

Life Membership

Mr Gary Ian Brodie OAM
 Mr Berend Bruggemann
 (accepted by his widow and children)
 The Rev. Joe Mullins MC OAM
 (accepted by Malcolm Davies, President British Sub-Branch)

Certificate of Appreciation

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Harrison | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Robert Hughes | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Ian Meibusch | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Tony Heinrich | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Lola Buckley | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Shirley Gollings | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| William Spaven | (Woden Valley Sub-Branch) |
| Frederick Burgin | (Belconnen Sub-Branch) |
| Norman Gehrig | (Belconnen Sub-Branch) |
| Ira Pollard | (Belconnen Sub-Branch) |
| Mike Fitzgerald | |

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 continue to be invited to (and attend) Prizes & Awards Ceremonies, Graduation Ceremonies, Trooping the Colour and other significant occasions.

Membership

Branch membership continues to slowly increase, remaining over the 2,000 level, with a pleasant rise in the number of Affiliates joining the League.

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. Our volunteers from the Branch and sub-branches 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. It is of concern that the Government is considering changing the financial model that provides the grants and funds with which to carry out this work.

Finances

Our financial position is steady. Thanks to the sterling efforts of sub-branch members, our **ANZAC Day and 'Red Poppy' appeals**, we continue to support the local veteran community. However it should be understood that if the Government cuts funds and grants in real terms then the Branch will have to review its operations to accommodate any downturn in funding.

Change of Venue for Branch Headquarters

Last year the Branch moved to premises provided by the Canberra Services Club. Unfortunately the Club burned down just shortly after ANZAC Day. Since then the Branch has been accommodated in offices provided by the Sir Leslie Morshead Home for Veterans and Aged Persons. Although the Branch has the use of the Board Room for Executive Committee meeting, the Branch Council meetings require a much larger venue which has been provided by the Ainslie Football Club. Members are extremely grateful to the Club for providing this venue at no charge.

Branch 'Stand To' Magazine

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

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, and the respective RSL State Presidents 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.

As in previous years the ACT Chief Executive Officer, Mr James Davidson 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 2012.

JOHN KING
Branch President

National Trustees Report

General

During 2011 the National Trustees met 4 times and handled some more pressing matters out of session.

The National Trustees were:

Mr John Sheldrick OAM - Chairman
Mr John Button OAM
Mr Harold Fife OAM (until his death in April 2011)
The Hon Mr Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM
Mr Eric Kay AM ED
Mr Derek Roylance AM
Mr Gary Brodie OAM
Mr Don Porter DFC RFD (appointed 9-9-11)
Mr Brian Loftus RFD (appointed 23-2-11)

The National President opted not to attend all meetings, however his ongoing support for the efforts of the Trustees throughout the year was much appreciated. Mr John King remained as the RSL National Executive representative on the Committee and attended all meetings. The Trustees were most appreciative of the continuing support and advice from the National Treasurer Mr David Sinclair and the excellent secretarial support from Mrs Jan Ormerod. Both attended all meetings.

Income from Interest

Income to the National Trusts is generally limited to interest earned, although some small donations are gratefully received each year. The Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL continues to receive income from capitation payments.

Interest returns were such that some deserving small increases in grants were able to be made from some of the Funds.

Welfare and Disaster Fund

In conjunction with SSAFA (UK), a grant of \$10,000 was made to an Australian ex-serviceman now resident in the UK to assist in his mobility. The grant was in part payment, in conjunction with SSAFA, to provide a suitable disability vehicle for the **ex-serviceman's use**. Part of the conditions for the grant was that when the vehicle was no longer necessary for the ex-serviceman, it was to revert to SSAFA control for reallocation as necessary to any other Australian ex-serviceman in need of such support. The Trustees were most grateful to SSAFA (UK) for their support in this project.

Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

RSL Scholarships

Three RSL Scholarships were awarded through the Australian Veterans Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) in 2011. In the main these scholarships are awarded each year over a 3 year period depending on academic results and circumstances so that the student awarded is able to use the scholarship for each year of a 3 year undergraduate degree. The recipients of the 2011 scholarships were Mis Makare Dillon and Miss Kristiana McFarlane. This year, due to special circumstances, a third scholarship was awarded to Miss Ester Scott for one year to complete her medical degree. Continuation awards were also made to awardees from 2009 and 2010 who had satisfactorily completed their study in 2010 and were continuing in that study during 2011. Total RSL Scholarship awards were \$24,000. The National Trustees acknowledge and thank the Board and staff of AVCAT for their considerable support in the selection process and administration of the RSL Scholarships.

Reg Saunders Scholarships

The National Trustees continued their support of providing a scholarship of \$2000 to an indigenous student at the Cape York Institute. Through the National Executive, State Branches were invited to consider similar support through suitable organisations in their state.

RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships

The National Trustees were pleased to continue with two scholarships to support two local deserving and necessitous students to completing year 12 of their secondary studies at Port Moresby Grammar School. These scholarships are named the RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships. Two grants of up to \$4,000 were awarded in 2010 (to allow completion of year 11) and a similar grant was made for 2011 to allow completion of Year 12.

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 \$15,000 was made which is an increase of \$3,000 over 2010. The National Trustees gratefully acknowledge the contribution of \$5,000 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.

Assistance to Santa Clara Orphanage, Timor-Leste

The Trustees were pleased to grant a sum of \$17,020 for the construction of a well at this orphanage in Dili. An initial payment of \$10,000 has been made and a further payment of the remaining \$7,020 will be made on completion of the well.

In addition, a grant of \$1,000 was made to the orphanage for the benefit of the children.

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 amounted to a grant of \$7,500. This year the Trust granted an additional 2 scholarships to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, bringing the total grant to \$14,000.

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 2011, the level of grants for the two scholarships was increased to \$3,250 each. The **grant to the Bishop of Spili's Fund remained at \$1,000.**

A 2009 report commented "that a substantial injection of Funds would allow the introduction of a **scholarship in Australia**". As in 2010, this could not be considered in 2011 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, some 70 years after the battle and as memories fade, some continuing recognition in Australia is important to initiate.



Presentation of the 2011 scholarships in Athens

The Trustees were again especially appreciative of the efforts of Her Excellency Jenny Bloomfield, Australian Ambassador to Greece, to make herself available to present the scholarships and Destitute Fund grant in Crete. The Trustees also appreciate the work of the 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.

A grant of \$12,500 was made from this Fund during 2011 for a series of 6 plaques, including a plaque for HMAS AE1 lost off Rabaul in 1914.

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 \$7,000 was made to the RCEL from the Fund during 2011.

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 2011, 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 2011, grants from accrued interest amounting to \$40,000 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 \$22,000 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 Australian Defence Force.

2011 National Congress

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

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.

Permanent Impairment Claims that Cross Multiple Acts

That the Government accepts the Department of **Veterans' Affairs, the Australian Defence Organisation and Mr Peter Sutherland's** recommendation in Chapter 22 of the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements and implements the alternative method for calculating permanent impairment claims that are transitional in nature. In addition, all pre-existing cases where the claimant would be better off are not prevented from seeking a reassessment.

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.

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.

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.

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)**.

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).

British Commonwealth Occupation Force 1945-52

Declare that service with BCOF from 21 February 1946 to 30 June 1947 be covered by full repatriation benefits, as provided for in the approved Cabinet Agendum 1241C of 26 May 1947.

Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act Review

The Review of Military Compensation Arrangements was a Government commitment to examine the current military rehabilitation and compensation system.

A Steering Committee was appointed by the **former Minister for Veterans' Affairs to manage** the Review. The Committee was asked to examine issues raised during the review process and evaluate possible changes to current legislation and schemes. The Committee provided **its report to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 25 February 2011.**

To date the Government has not responded to the report. The delay is causing some angst in the Veteran community and I continually alert the **Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs** of my concern.

BEST Grants

Following widespread criticism of the allocation of Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST)

grants in Round 13, members of the ESO Round Table met with representatives of Minister **Snowdon's Office and DVA in December** to discuss how to manage the BEST grants program in the future. I accompanied our National President and was pleased with the consultation process now being undertaken by DVA.

There will probably not be an increase in BEST funding for Round 14 but at least the distribution of funds will be more equitable, based on work load of each ESO.

Veterans' Legislation Amendments

In June 2011, the Government introduced into **Parliament the Veterans' Entitlements Amendment Bill 2011**.

This Bill consisted of three Schedules:

1. Prisoner of war recognition supplement;
2. Compensation offsetting; and
3. Temporary incapacity allowance

The League supported both Schedules 1 and 3 but opposed Schedule 2.

The Schedule 2 amendments to the Veterans' Entitlements Act sought to clarify and affirm the original intention of the compensation offsetting policy in relation to disability pensions payable under Part II (operational service) and IV (**Defence service**) of the **Veterans' Entitlements Act**. The amendments attempted to make it clear that the compensation offsetting provisions are to apply where compensation from another source (**a source other than the Veterans' Entitlements Act**) and pension under Part II or IV of the **Veterans' Entitlements Act** are payable in respect of the same incapacity and do not require that the incapacity results from the same injury or disease.

The RSL opposed the proposed amendments on the basis that:

- sufficient provision already exists in Chapter 19 of the Guide to the Assessment of Rates of **Veterans' Pensions (commonly referred to as GARP)** to discount the assessment of disability pension for the effects of non-service-related disabilities; and
- the proposed amendments would effectively **allow the Commonwealth to 'double-dip' into veterans' disability pensions**.

Despite the RSL's Submission to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation

Committee (which is available on the RSL website) and the appearance at the Committee Hearings of both the National President and myself, the Amendments were passed by both Houses of Parliament.

However, one concession that the League achieved was an Addendum to the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill:

"The proposed amendments will not change the current operation of the compensation offsetting provisions. The changes are intended to clarify the operation of the legislation following the Smith decision and ensure that the established compensation offsetting practices can continue.

This includes the interaction between the compensation offsetting provisions and Chapter 19 ("Partially Contributing Impairment") of the Guide to the Assessment of Rates of Veterans' Pensions, 5th Edition (GARP V), which will not change under the proposed amendments.

Under current practice, if medical opinion is able to determine the relative contribution of an accepted condition and a non-accepted condition to the impairment, Chapter 19 of the GARP V is used to "apportion" the contribution from the accepted condition. Where relative contribution can be apportioned between impairment from an accepted condition and impairment from a non-accepted condition, this apportionment applies and the compensation offsetting provisions do not apply. This current practice will not change under the proposed amendments.

If medical opinion is not able to apportion the relative contribution of an accepted condition and a non-accepted condition, Chapter 19 of the GARP V cannot apply. In these circumstances, the compensation offsetting provisions operate to ensure that a veteran or member is not compensated twice for the same incapacity. Again, this practice will not change under the proposed amendments.

The Repatriation Commission will be issuing appropriate policy guidance to Department of Veterans' Affairs staff to ensure offsetting occurs in line with the legislation and longstanding practice as outlined above. Ex-Service Organisations will be consulted during the development of this material."

It is envisaged that the League will be consulted in the development of these policy guidelines in 2012.

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 National President, fellow members of NVAC and all the staff at National Headquarters for their support throughout the year.

JOHN M HODGES

National Veterans' Affairs Advisor

Defence Committee Report

General

Australia's involvement in Afghanistan is the most direct defence issue facing the country with the situation showing some signs of progress although still far from a position where a successful outcome can be predicted in the near future. The tensions that were evident on the Korean Peninsula in 2010 appear to have subsided during the first half of 2011, but the general situation overall has not changed with North Korea as unpredictable as ever, and with only South Korean and United States superior military capacity maintaining stability.

During the first half of the year, the upheavals in many countries in the Middle East, while not directly affecting Australia, are matters of great significance, with the outcomes hard to predict, although there is some hope for less despotic and more democratic regimes to eventuate.

Pakistan continues to be unstable politically and subject to continued terrorist activities directed against governmental and military targets with little evidence of progress in combating Islamic extremism. Relations between Pakistan and the US show little sign of improving. In addition, **China's disputes with neighbours in the South China Sea** and a massive defence build up are causes of continuing concern.

Afghanistan

On 12 May, the Minister for Defence tabled a statement in Parliament on the subject of Afghanistan in which he covered progress in the war and details of Australian involvement. The fundamental purpose of Australia was to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a haven for terrorism and to this end the Afghan Government must take the lead in providing national security. **Australia's part in this was to assist** the Afghan Government in maintaining security and in training and mentoring the security force. Interestingly, he made no mention of the wider strategic objective in stabilising Pakistan and preventing terrorism spreading from across the Pakistani-Afghan border.

He stated that he was cautiously optimistic that the winter campaign for ISAF had been good and that the Taliban momentum had been halted and much of their infrastructure and tactical support removed. As well as the US surge in troop numbers last year there has been an increase in Afghan security forces of 80,000 over the last year to number 300,000 in total. As well as

increasing the size of the force, specialist skills must be developed and Australia is providing training in artillery apart from mentoring an Afghan brigade.

In Oruzgan Province, ISAF and Afghan forces have extended security to areas previously controlled by the Taliban and Australian and Afghan forces have created a new patrol base in the Mirabad Valley on an important insurgent infiltration route allowing the population access to government services and infrastructure development. The prime purpose of the Australia force was to train the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to a level where it is able to take a lead in Oruzgan, but Australia was also the third largest contributor of Special Forces, and had in addition personnel in Kabul in the national headquarters and in Kandahar supporting helicopter reconnaissance and ISAF Headquarters operations. The role of Australian Special Forces is to target and disrupt insurgent networks in and around Oruzgan Province but they are authorised to operate in adjoining provinces also.

The Minister further stated that Australia had concluded its attachment of artillerymen to British operations in Helmand Province which began in 2008 and was now concentrating on its lead role in the Artillery Training School, Kabul training ANA **artillerymen. Australia's Chinooks** are embedded with the **US Army's 159th Combat Aviation Brigade** and were prepared for the start of the summer combat season.

There are significant challenges ahead, but confidence was expressed that transition of security responsibilities to the ANA can take place in 2013-14. In June the President of the US announced that 10,000 American servicemen would be withdrawn in July, with a further element by September 2012. This will equal the 30,000 troops deployed in the surge of 2010. The Government still maintains that there will be no withdrawal of Australian troops before 2014, although the last Australian troops were officially withdrawn from Iraq on 6 August. It is of interest however that the next two battalions to provide the Mentoring Taskforce will have five month tours only, deploying in January and May respectively. This is an indication of a somewhat earlier withdrawal timetable than has been indicated.

The Minister's **optimism notwithstanding**, the real test will be whether the Afghan Government can come up to the mark developing real capacity to govern. The next few years will determine

whether the vast resources that have been deployed into Afghanistan since 2001 have achieved the desired goal. This has yet to be tested.

Pakistan

The situation of Pakistan both internally and externally is becoming increasingly dangerous. Internally, terrorist violence has appeared to increase with attacks on military, police and civilian targets in many areas of the country combined with a weak central government that is incapable of controlling this increase or of providing stable government. It is widely believed that the Army has a significant influence on the running of the country, and is the one institution that provides any competence and cohesion in the governmental structure. While the Army is nominally committed to fighting terrorism, some elements particularly in the intelligence services appear to have sympathy for and are prepared to work with Al Qaeda and the Taliban when it suits them, which has implications for the war in Afghanistan.

Externally, Pakistan is a key ally of the US and the West in general and its stability is essential to success in Afghanistan and to a wider stability in the region, particularly in relation to India. **Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons makes stability more urgent.**

The killing in May of Osama Bin Laden in a garrison town in Pakistan, where he had been living for years under the noses of the Pakistani military, has heightened tensions with the US with both sides accusing the other of bad faith. Both sides however need each other, the US to succeed against terrorism and Pakistan to retain the financial assistance that enables it to function economically and militarily. Tensions were further heightened by the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers in a misdirected air raid in December by NATO.

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 in advancing what it believes to be its sovereignty over the disputed areas. 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 with 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 control sea lanes, also has wider implications for international trade and the security of the region. There are no simple solutions to the various conflicting claims, and a clash in late May between the Chinese Navy and Vietnamese merchant ships illustrated this point as did further clashes with vessels from the Philippines. As a result of the latter, the US firmly backed Manila and the US and the Philippines planned to hold military exercises in the days ahead.

China's Military Build-Up

China has announced that her defence budget will rise by 12.7% this year, about six percent of the total national budget and representing a return to double digit increases. This increase has **caused concern to the United States and China's Asian neighbours** and should give Australia similar concerns. It is of particular concern to Japan which has a dispute with China over an island chain and has recently had a diplomatic incident over collisions in disputed waters in the East China Sea. India has also expressed alarm at the build-up and has foreshadowed an increase in its own defence spending as a result.

The United States Defence Secretary has stated quite bluntly that Chinese advances in cyber and anti-satellite warfare pose a challenge to the ability of the US to operate and communicate in the north Pacific although he further stated that China was not necessarily an inevitable strategic adversary.

US Strategic Posture

The announcement by President Obama during his visit to Australia in November that the US was to put its main strategic focus on the Pacific and away from Europe, was, in part a reaction to **China's growing influence and military build-up**, although any direct connection was de-emphasised.

North and South Korea

The various naval incidents that caused significant tensions between North and South Korea in 2010 have not been repeated in 2011, leading to the conclusion that the North realised that the situation was getting out of hand. It was apparent at the time that South Korea backed by her US ally was not going to back down in the face of blatant provocation and that in the event of a full scale military confrontation the South might suffer, but the North, already in dire economic circumstances, would be destroyed.

North Korea has heavy artillery and rockets within reach of Seoul and has potentially some basic nuclear capability and a large army. South Korea has a large and sophisticated army and superior force projection capability. The key differences are the 25,000 US personnel in South Korea and another 32,000 in Japan, backed by superior technology and extensive strategic and tactical nuclear capability. **In spite of the North's threats** over the years, this has never resulted in all out war and probably never will, while the US remains committed to its South Korean ally. There is no suggestion that this commitment will diminish in the foreseeable future, as provocations from North Korea will no doubt continue from time to time. This fact was emphasised in June when the North test fired missiles into the Yellow Sea off the west coast of South Korea. The Death in December of Kim Jong Il and his replacement by his son, the largely unknown Kim Jong Un, has introduced a further uncertainty into the situation as initial statements from the regime are as aggressive as ever.

Iran

The Iranian regime continues to present problems to the West as it proceeds to develop its nuclear capability which she claims is for peaceful purposes, although whether it is or not, is no closer to being decided. The recent unrest in the **Middle East has weakened some of Iran's closest** allies such as Syria and although the government claims to support the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, it would clearly have a vested interest in ensuring that the apparent desire for democracy does not extend to its own population. One interesting development is a split in the regime between the President Armadinajad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenie, with the President apparently wanting to make some overtures to the West to ease tensions and to reduce the effects of sanctions, with the Supreme Leader wanting no change to a hard line approach. Whatever the result the split is

encouraging and may in time produce some progress.

Statements from senior Iranian government sources in December that the Straits of Hormuz would be closed in response to Western sanctions brought a swift and unequivocal response from the US.

Defence Budget 2011-2012 and the Strategic Reform Program

In 2009 the Government simultaneously delivered a Defence White Paper, Force 2030, and a major defence reform program, the Strategic Reform Program (SRP). The linkage was that the defence force modernisation in Force 2030 was dependent on \$20.6b in savings over ten years forecast in the SRP. The budget promised a capacity to review the progress of both programs.

Defence will hand back \$1.5b of funding this financial year made up of \$1.1b of investment funds and \$400m of recurrent spending. A further \$1.3b of planned investment has been deferred beyond 2014 and \$3.9b of recurrent funding planned for the next decade will be returned to Government. These facts reveal **significant flaws in Defence's financial** management and capability development planning according to Mark Thomson of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute ¹.

This financial year Defence plans to spend \$26.5b amounting to a share of GDP of 1.8% made up of \$10.1b (38.1%) on personnel, \$9.4b (35.4%) on operating costs and \$7.0b (26.6%) on investment. The key measures are, as explained above, \$4.3b cut from the budget to 2019 and \$2.4b in investment deferred past 2014. \$1.3b has been increased in supplementation for deployments.

Since 2000, the development of the defence force has been based on a long term program of investment contained in the Defence Capability Plan (DCP). The latest version was released in 2010 and reveals the acquisitions planned over the next decade to meet the requirements of Force 2030 and the 2009 White Paper. While it was claimed last year that Force 2030 was on track, but under pressure, no such claim is made this year and the implementation of Force 2030 has fallen steadily behind schedule. To illustrate this point only ten first pass approvals for major defence equipment have been given over the last two years when over thirty were planned. Around fifty eight will be required over the next 25

¹ The Cost of Defence. ASPI Defence Budget Brief 2011-2012

months to meet the current schedule. The situation with second pass approvals is not as bad, but many are dependent on first pass action which is not forthcoming.

Baseline defence spending will decline towards 2012-13, after that it rises to regain the 3% real growth figure promised over the decade. As most of the contraction and subsequent growth is in major capital investment, spending on new equipment may have to rise by over 100% in four years, which seems unrealistic given the constraints of Australian industry, and would imply much off-the-shelf acquisition. To complicate matters, a White Paper and an election are due in 2014, which will disrupt progress. All this implies a more realistic recasting of the present capability program and a streamlining of the approval process.

The SRP promised \$20.6b worth of savings over **ten years**. **ASPI's view is that the SRP is leading** to worthwhile changes and real savings are being made, particularly in the area of capability sustainment, but that the overall claim of savings made is not credible, because claimed savings come from shifting expenditure from one category to another but also from impossibly high baselines. **This year's budget claims even higher** savings than \$20.6b, some of it due to delays in bringing capability into service.

Savings real or imagined are not infinite and what is required is a much better alignment of accountability and control of resources. Financial planning must be put on a more substantial basis otherwise with the many new capabilities coming into service, whose real costs are unknown, the budget in future may be put under unimaginable **strain**. **This year's budget reveals the present and** future problems.²

Protection Measures in Afghanistan

A new Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) Sense and Warn system has been delivered to the ADF and is currently in operation at the multi-national base at Tarin Kowt. This system provides early detection from attacks from enemy rockets, artillery and mortars and replaces a capability provided by the Singapore Armed Forces. This capacity dates from Australia assuming responsibility for early detection against rockets and mortars since December 2010.

The provision of C-RAM is part of a purchase of initiatives following a Force Protection Review which made 48 recommendations of which 40 are

complete or on track. These include enhanced (E1) counter measures, better armour and heavier weapons for Bushmasters, the introduction of lighter individual armour and the placement of medical personnel in each platoon.

C-RAM is based on proven systems in use in Afghanistan by the UK and the US and has worked effectively in the field allowing early warning against missile attack.

Handover of Combined Task Force 150 to the French

Australia handed over the command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) to the French Navy in April. Australia has had command of CTF 150 for six months and has planned and executed operations for a range of ships and aircraft from contributing nations. The principal mission of CTF150 is to deter, disrupt and defeat attempts by international terrorists to use the maritime environment as a venue for attack or as a means to transport personnel, weapons or other materials associated with terrorism. CTF150 vessels also undertake humanitarian work and assist mariners in distress. The multinational task force consists of sixteen nations including most of **the world's major maritime** powers.

Largs Bay Acquisition

It became apparent in February that the ADF's amphibious ships fleet was not deployable for a variety of reasons. Kanimbla was unavailable in the long term and Tobruk was unfit for service, which resulted in a lack of amphibious capability for either operations or for natural disasters. Leaving aside who was responsible for this state of affairs and the **Minister's obvious attempts to inappropriately blame** the Navy, the Government had no alternative but to look for a short to medium term solution to provide capability until the advent of the amphibious Landing Helicopter Dock ships in 2014. In April, the Government announced the purchase of a Bay Class ship, the Largs Bay, which had become surplus to UK requirements. The ship weights 16000 tonnes, has deck space for 2 large helicopters and can carry 150 light trucks and 350 troops and has a cargo **capacity equivalent to the Navy's entire current** amphibian fleet, with a proven capability in humanitarian relief. The ship has been inspected and been found to present very well in all respects and should arrive by the end of 2011, to be operational by 2012.

² ASPI Defence Budget Brief 2011 - 2012

RSL Defence Committee Submissions to Government

During the year, the Defence Committee prepared two submissions in response to requests from an Independent Review Panel and from a Senate Committee:

- An Independent Review of the Intelligence Community was established in February arising out of the Flood Review of Intelligence Agencies in 2004. The RSL response dealt with specific recommendations in this review as they pertain to the defence related agencies the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIO), the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), and the Joint Operational Intelligence Centre (JOIC). The comments were generally favourable and constructive.
- The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into Defence Procurement. Comments in this response were generally critical and highlighted the failures in the procurement process, the laboriousness of the capability development process, and the potential for significant problems in the procurement process arising from the Strategic Reform Program (SRP) now in process of implementation. The question of sovereignty in the procurement decisions was also addressed.

A submission was also prepared by the National President to a review on the question of cruise ship access to naval facilities in Sydney Harbour.

Project Management and Accountability Reforms

For many years there have been complaints about the management of Defence procurement projects which led to the Mortimer Review into Defence Procurement and Sustainment in 2008. This review made 46 recommendations of which the Government agreed to 42 of these in full and three in part. By the first half of the year some of the key recommendations had not been fully implemented and Defence agreed to accelerate the implementation of outstanding recommendations as a matter of priority. These include:

- Cost benefit analysis of projects that are not off-the-shelf purchases;
- Establishing Project directives;
- Establishing an independent Project Performance Office;
- Regular reporting to Government;
- Creating a more disciplined process for changing the scope of a project;
- Benchmarking all acquisitions against off-the-shelf options.

Additionally, a two pass approval system for minor capital projects valued between \$8m and \$20m will be introduced. This brings the process in line with major capital projects but will inevitably slow the acquisition system, while possibly improving efficiency. It appears however to be an unnecessary requirement for a minor capital procurement system that has generally worked well.

The Government also says it will respond to the review into Accountability and Governance in the Defence Department and into the Rizzo Review into the Maintenance of Naval Ships, in the second half of the year.

Projects of Concern Update

In February the Government updated the Projects of Concern list and announced the cancellation of the LCM 2000 Watercraft project which involved the construction of six watercraft for the Landing Platform Ships. The dimensions and weight of the ships proved unsuitable to be launched from the ships and not suitable for any other ADF purpose. The vessels will be disposed of, but no explanation has been given as to how this wasteful situation occurred.

Also announced was the high level diagnostic review of the MRH-90 helicopter project which has suffered delays of 12 months for the Navy helicopters and 18 months for the Army version. These helicopters were ordered to replace the **Army's Black Hawks and the Navy's Sea Kings**. The delays have been caused by engine failure, transmission and cooler failures and the poor availability of spares, although 13 helicopters have been accepted by Defence and are currently being used for testing and initial crew training.

The Projects of Concern list was established to focus attention of Defence and industry on remediating listed projects. Projects which have problems with scheduling, cost capability delivery or project management are put on the list and a total of 18 projects have been listed since 2008. Seven of these have been removed – five due to remediation and two to cancellation. The Minister for Defence Materiel meets CEOs of companies concerned twice a year.

Changes to Air Warfare Destroyer Construction Program

In the first half of the year rumours surfaced that there were problems with the construction of the three Air Warfare Destroyers (AWD) being constructed in Australia from a proven Spanish Navy design. The ships are to be delivered by

2014. The AWD Alliance is managing the project and consists of the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC), the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) and Raytheon.

Construction involved 90 separate steel blocks being built in Adelaide (ASC), Melbourne (BAE Systems) and Newcastle (Forgacs) with additional block assemblies being built in Spain and the United Kingdom. BAE Systems is also building steel blocks for the new Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships due to be delivered in 2014-15.

Last year difficulties in construction were encountered at the BAE shipyard and some steel blocks were transferred from BAE Systems to Forgacs in Newcastle, and in February BAE advised the Alliance of potential schedule delays. The Alliance determined that unless action was taken, the first ship would be two years late. As a result, 13 Steel blocks were re-allocated to Adelaide and Newcastle and a further five steel blocks to Navantia in Spain. BAE will complete work on its current blocks and also on blocks for the LHD ships. The reallocation will reduce the delay in completion of the first ship by 12 months and the three ships by 12 months also. The readjustment of work does not disguise the fact that this is an unsatisfactory **situation and calls into question Australia's industrial capacity** in very sophisticated shipbuilding projects.

Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Restructure

The US has announced a restructure of the JSF Program following a detailed Technical Baseline Review to examine the remaining development tasks and the resources and time required to complete them. This restructure will see an extension of the System, Design and Development phase and a reduction in the production rate in earlier batches of aircraft. All costs will be funded by the US.

The JSF Program involved the development of three different types of aircraft:

- the F-35A Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) variant;
- the F-35B Short Take Off and Vertical Landing (STVOL) variant; and
- the F-35C Carrier Variant (CV)

Australia and the US Air Force are purchasing the CTOL variant and it has been confirmed that this variant is on schedule and progressing satisfactorily and in 2010 exceeded its test flight targets. The STVOL variant being developed for the US Marines is experiencing significant testing problems and has been placed at the back of the production

sequence, which means that the Australian CTOL variant is now at the front of the schedule.

The Government approved the acquisition of the first 14 aircraft in 2009 with the first two aircraft to be delivered in 2014 and the remaining aircraft of the initial 14 in Australia by 2017. The risk to Australia has been reduced by the restructure, although changes to cost and timings of delivery can be expected. The Defence Committee has long advocated the purchase of the JSF as the only viable option for Australia and the reassurance provided by the review and restructure is welcome, although some problems remain.

Recent announcements of cuts in the US defence budget raise further concerns in relation to costs and delivery timetable which were not clarified at **year's end**.

New Naval Combat Helicopters

The Australian Government has approved the acquisition of 24 MH-60R Seahawk Romeo naval helicopters at a cost of \$3b. These helicopters will **replace Navy's current helicopter capability of 16 Seahawk 5-70B's and will also provide the air to surface strike capability** which was to have been provided by the cancelled Sea Sprite program.

The Romeo helicopter represents the best value for money available and is currently being operated by the US Navy thus providing interoperability. The first helicopters will arrive in mid 2014 for testing and evaluation, with operations starting in 2015.

This acquisition will provide Navy with the capacity to provide at least eight warships with a combat helicopter including the ANZAC Frigates and the Air Warfare Destroyers, and the helicopters will be equipped with the Hellfire air-to-surface missile and the Mark 54 anti-submarine torpedo.

Defence Force Posture Review

In June, the Minister for Defence announced a Defence Force Posture Review to be undertaken by two former Secretaries of the Department of Defence (DoD), Ric Smith and Alan Hawke. This review was apparently announced without reference to the CDF and came as a surprise to at least the military element of the Department. The review will examine five security elements:

- the rise of the Asia-Pacific as a region of global strategic significance;
- the rise of the Indian Ocean rim as a region of global strategic significance;
- the growth of military power projection capabilities of countries in the Asia Pacific;

- the growing need for the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief following extreme events in the Asia Pacific region; and
- energy security and security issues associated with expanding offshore resource exploitation in our North West and Northern approaches.

The review has raised a number of questions, the first and most important of which is whether or not it is a response to the rising military capacity of China. Some commentators think it is, although obviously no official statement will confirm this. What is obvious however is that the last element relating to energy security and resource exploitation is a direct result of the rapidly growing conflict between China and its South East Asian neighbours in the South China Sea over the ownership of potentially resource rich areas of that sea and the off-shore islands.

Subsequent comments by the Minister for Defence seemed to pre-empt the review in that he foreshadowed moving elements of the Navy and Air Force to the north-west and north of the country, including North Queensland. This may make sense, but it is to be hoped that the review will not be driven by political rather than genuine strategic considerations as has happened in the past. One commentator has rightly said that any moves must take into consideration proximity to towns and the problem of remoteness from major population centres, otherwise resignation rates in the ADF will rise. The Defence Committee will have discussions with the review team in early 2012.

At the same time as this announcement, the Minister mentioned the United States Global Force **Posture Review and Australia's involvement with it** in a joint working party. This added weight to speculation that Australia might be looking favourably at allowing US forces to be permanently based here, a move that would probably be well received by the majority of Australians and provide a very cost effective boost to our security and was confirmed during the visit of President Obama when he announced that US Marines would spend six months every year training in the Northern Territory, the force eventually rising to 2,500.

The Black Review of Defence Administration

In August, the Government released its response to the Black Review of Defence Administration which had been with the Minister since early in the year. While the report has been described as impenetrable, by one knowledgeable commentator, the Government has accepted most key recommendations. There will be two new Associate Secretary positions created above the level of

Deputy Secretary, one of which will be responsible for the DMA which will remain a Prescribed Agency, the previous Director Mr Gumley having recently resigned. The two Associate Secretary positions were not a recommendation of the Review, but a decision of the Minister. Some committees currently in existence will be abolished and there will be a degree of individual responsibility introduced, particularly for acquisition programs, to replace the vague collective responsibility that now exists. Whether these measures will improve administration in general or the defence acquisition processes in particular only time will tell, but it is hard to see how the addition of extra bureaucracy in the form of two Associate Secretaries will be of benefit.

The ADFA Affair

Misconduct by some cadets at ADFA resulted in a number of reactions at ministerial level which defied logic to the outside observer. The Commandant of ADFA was stood down after suggestions that he might be discharged, although on the surface he appeared to have done nothing wrong and to have handled the situation appropriately. A number of reviews were ordered including one into the treatment of women in the ADF and another into the treatment of women at ADFA specifically, and an announcement was made that women would be allowed into combat roles in the ADF. Whether these reviews were warranted or for purely political purposes time will tell. On the question of women in combat roles, which specifically effects the Army, there is obvious confusion between combat roles in general in which women currently participate and combat roles in units whose prime purpose is confrontation with the enemy. Whatever the theoretical impact of this ruling, practicality will probably ensure that sanity eventually prevails.

Senior Appointments

In July, the Government announced the appointments of officers to the senior positions in the ADF:

- Lieutenant General David Hurley AC DSC to Chief of the Defence Force
- Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO to Vice Chief of the Defence Force
- Lieutenant General David Morrison AO to Chief of Army
- Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AM CSC RAN to Chief of Navy
- Air Marshal Geoff Brown AM to Chief of Air Force

In August, Major General Duncan Lewis was appointed Secretary of the Department of Defence.

Guest Speakers

The following guest speakers informed the Committee:

- Dr Rod Lyon, ASPI, on international strategic matters;
- Dr Andrew Davies, ASPI, on force structure in the ADF;
- Mr John DuBois, on cyber terrorism and cyber security;
- Dr Mark Thomson, ASPI, on the Defence budget;
- Mr Stephen Merchant, Deputy Secretary DoD, on the Strategic Reform Program and the DoD intelligence system.
- Lieutenant General David Morrison on current Army matters.
- Mr Budi Hernawan on the civil military situation in Indonesian Papua.

Conclusion

Defence remains a subject of interest in the media and in the wider Australian community. This interest, partly driven by the war in Afghanistan and **probably also by the rise of China's influence in**

general and belligerence in the South China Sea in particular, is a positive development and in marked contrast to the situation that existed pre 2000. While defence spending has remained steady over the last few years, the increases promised in the 2009 White Paper will not materialise. This is unfortunate but not unexpected; in fact if the projections in the White Paper had been delivered, the results of all previous White Papers would have been reversed. While the Government appears to have a genuine commitment to defence, economic circumstances have taken priority and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

The ADF remains in reasonably good condition in terms of recruiting and retention, but the capital equipment program has steadily moved backwards. Major capital items will arrive, but they will arrive much more slowly than planned. The dysfunction in the Department of Defence, which has received much publicity in recent months, may improve following the implementation of various recent reviews. The RSL Defence Committee retains the hope, but not necessarily the expectation, that this will occur.

ADRIAN CLUNIES-ROSS
[Chairman](#)

Conditions of Service Committee Report

The Conditions of Service Committee is building upon its role of monitoring the conditions of service of the ADF and intervening (where appropriate) with responsible authorities, as well as continuing its more usual role of providing advice to the National President and National Executive. With respect to this latter role, the Committee intends to move to a more proactive stance rather than responding to matters referred to it. Clearly there are enduring issues: pay and allowances and other conditions of service for ADF members; indexation of military superannuation as it applies to the ADF; access to health services; reserve service matters; and issues of entitlements to honours and awards, which **continue to engage the Committee's** attention.

The establishment of the Honours and Awards Tribunal has been noted with satisfaction as many long-standing matters of entitlement to honours and awards are being addressed, with mostly positive outcomes, allowing our committee to take a lesser involvement in the representation aspects of members claims for entitlements to particular campaign awards. We continue to receive requests to intervene in these matters, however we can only add value when such requests provide us with new information.

The Committee continues to watch new developments in ADF Relocations, Removals and Housing, as well as the level of support the Department and its supporting agencies provides to ADF members and their families, particularly for those on deployments and, increasingly, those transferring in from allied defence forces. This work is ongoing.

The reporting period saw a new Chairman, AIRCDRE Peter McDermott AM CSC (RAAF Active Reserve) appointed by the National President, noting his long experience as a fulltime senior RAAF Officer and his recent RAAF Reserve leadership role, as well as his continuing close involvement as a state president of the RAAF Association. AVM David Rogers, previous Acting Chairman, has continued as a Committee Member. The committee builds upon AVM **Roger's work, as well as that of** his predecessor, GPCAPT Phil Morrall AM CSC, who served for five years as Chairman and has returned to the committee to provide a linkage to the Defence Force Welfare Association in his role of a DFWA Vice President.

Other additions to the committee during the year include members with strong links to the communities they represent in other fora. We now have representation on this committee from members with links to the Naval, RAR, and RAAF Associations and the DFWA, and this initiative will be developed during the coming year to build upon current synergies, and develop working level relationships and exchange of ideas with the larger and more active ESOs extant in Canberra.

PETER McDERMOTT
Chairman

Youth, Heritage & Citizenship Committee Report

The Chairman of the YHC Committee 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 administered by the Simpson Prize Competition Secretariat under the auspices of the History Teachers Association of Victoria and DEEWR.

The essays are judged by selected History Teachers from associations within Australia. The competition is for Year 8 and 9 students and the winners from 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 representatives, visit the Australian War Memorial and attend a dinner **in the Cadets' Mess at the Royal Military College Duntroon**. The dinner is hosted by cadets from Gallipoli Company, Corps of Staff Cadets.

Since the inception of the competition the number of schools participating and the number of entries has steadily increased.

As there was no business forwarded to the committee this year, it did not meet.

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.

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.

The 2011 Recipient

The 2011 Reg Saunders Scholarship was awarded to Ms Sondra Lively.

RSL AFOF Report

The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) provides packages to Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel serving 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 2011, 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 3300 mid-year packages and 3700 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, lollies, a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians and a letter introducing the RSL State Branches and their Membership contact details.



Bondi Junction NAB staff joined in to pack this year's AFOF parcels.

RSL AFOF relies on the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in the preparation of the packages. 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 the RSL National Office, and the many friends of AFOF from the general community, is always greatly appreciated.

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 2011.

- RSL State Branches
 - TAS RSL State Branch (\$15,000)
 - VIC RSL State Branch (\$10,000)
- RSL Sub-Branches
 - Bedford Morley RSL Sub-Branch (\$3,000)
 - Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch (\$2,000)
 - Morwell RSL Sub-Branch (\$1,000)
 - City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch (\$1,000)
 - Manly RSL Sub-Branch (\$540)
 - Belconnen RSL Sub-Branch (\$500)
 - Moree RSL Sub-Branch (500), and
 - Homebush Strathfield RSL Sub-Branch (\$500)
- RSL Women's Auxiliary
 - **RSL Victorian Women's Auxiliaries (\$6,410)**
 - Brisbane Nth RSL District Council of Women's Auxiliaries (\$2,000)
 - City of Penrith **RSL Women's Auxiliary (\$2,000)**
 - Berwick **RSL Women's Auxiliary (\$1,200)**
- National Servicemen's Association of Australia Inc and the Port Stephens RSL Sub-Branch (\$650).
- War Widows' Guild of Australia WA Branch Monday Craft Group (\$897)
- City of Blacktown RSL Club (\$565).
- Corporate
 - Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust (\$25,000)
 - St John of God Health Care Inc (\$3,000), and
 - Orbis Australia (\$500).

RSL AFOF introduced the 'RSL Support Pack' in November 2010. It 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 I-Pod 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 it was provided as a personal gift on behalf of a grateful nation and at a time of considerable need. Above all, the RSL has been particularly conscious of being seen 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.

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

Meritorious Service Medal

QLD

BOW, M R
BAK, E

MURRY, T
BARNES, R L

TURNBULL, D R
CONDON, A S

NSW

BEDFORD OAM, J J
COOMBES, R J
FINLAY, I

GIBBS, S R
GOODWORTH, D R
HOLLAND, G J

IRWIN, R J
MAY OAM, J F

SHORE OAM, L M
SIMS OAM, D B

VIC

BOEHM, J
CALLAGHAN, D
COCHRANE, R

COLLINS OAM JP, Rev. V C
DE JUSSING, C
EAST, F

FITZPATRICK, A
HUNT, W

O'REILLY, R
SOMMERFIELD, A

SA

BONYTHON, R L
McWATERS, S J

ACT

ROYLANCE AM, D J

Life Membership

QLD

ALEXANDER, C
BACKEN, R K
CAMPBELL, P D
CAMPBELL, P D
COMERFORD, J
DAY, D C
FRANKLIN, T G

GILMORE-WALSH, H
GRIFFIN, M G
HASTINGS, N S
HASTINGS, N S
KIRBY, W
LAYCOCK, S C
McKENZIE, W J

McKENZIE, W
MOSS, K
MURDOCH, N H
NASH, L
OLIVER, D
OLIVER, D
READING, V

RUE, R W T
STEINMULLER, T N
VILES, R
VIRGEN, R C
WILLIAMS, I

NSW

BARNES, A R
BLACKMORE, L D
BLACKSTOCK, T
BOOTH, F M
BRIDGES, F J
BRUCE, G
BURCHAT, P R
BURNS, E J
CALLAWAY, I R
CAPLE, D R
CARLSON, G H
CHALKER, G
CHAMBERLAIN, D J
CLARK, W G

CLIFFORD, D J
CUMMING, R A
DAVIS CSM, G R
DIXON, B C
DOKTER, W B
DUNCAN, R B
EBERLE, The late B M
FOLEY, M R
GODDARD, B D
GOLFIN, A
GREEN, L C
HOGAN, C
HOLLOWAY, R J
HOOLEY, D J

JENNINGS, L D
JONES, D A
KELLOCK, L D
KERR, K B
KING, J N
LAWRENCE, T J
LYLE, P T
MALPASS OAM, K C
MARTIN, A J W
McCALLUM, G
MEECH, W
MELVILLE, B J
MIDDLETON, K
MILLER, R W

MORTIMER, M
MOWBRAY, E
RENDELL, J W
TIMMINGS, M F
TING, W J
TOMKINS, G W C
VINCENT, B
VINCENT, J
WALSH, J F
WEBB, K
WHYBURN, D
WILLIAMS, D A G
WOOD, M J

VIC

ALSOP, A
ARNALL, J
BRAIDIE, J
BROWN, R
BULL, D
CLARK, E J
COMBS, E
CONSIDINE, B

COSSAR, B
DRISCOLL, A
GOLDIE, I
HALE, A
HAMPSON, M
HARDING, G J
HENSKENS, P
HORSFALL, V

JOHNSON, C
LAUGHTON JP, J F
LYNCH, J
MATTHEWS, B
MCKENZIE, J C
MORTON, L C
OULD, A W
SEYMOUR, H

SHARP, A P
St ALBYN, W
STEELE, T
VAUGHAN, A W
WILSON, A

WA

JESSOP, A J C

O'TOOLE, B W

STANTON, A J

SA

BACICH, J F
DEMICOLI, C
DIXON, N T
FROMM, G M

HADAWAY, J E
HARDY, C R
HENTSCHKE, K R
HOPKINS, J D

MANGELSDORF, D J
McMILLAN, R B
MUGG, F A
PARSONS, C T

PENNINGTON, A V
STEVENSON, H H
WHITELAW, R T

TAS

FYFE, P J
GIANI, B J

JAGER, H J
KEEP, G

MYERS, B
SMITH, G M

ACT

BRODIE OAM, G I

BRUGGEMAN, B

MULLINS MC OAM, J

Honorary Life Membership

NSW

HASTIE, R M
Private S

WA

ROBERTS-SMITH VC MG, CPL B

Honorary Membership for Life

NSW

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO

Honorary Membership

WA

His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AO QC, Governor of Western Australia

Honorary National Vice President

KENNETT OAM, I J

Certificate of Appreciation

VIC

ALLISON, J

DONALDSON, G

GREGG, M

HUGHES OAM, P B

SA

CHABERT, R L

ACT

BUCKLEY, L
BURGIN, F
FITZGERALD, M
GEHRIG, N L

GOLLINGS, S
GOSMAN, B
HARRISON, P
HEINRICH, A

HUGHES, R E
MEILBUSCH, I J
POLLARD, I J
SPAVERN, W

VICKERY, D

NHQ

SAILLARD, W

Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge

VIC

CONBOY, E

SA

UPPINGTON, M

TAS

COOPER, I
HAWKINS, E

Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

QLD

BRYSON, J
DAVIS, B

DURNFORD, D
FRASER, C

GAUL, P
MEHARG, C

NSW

BEARD, N I
BRIAN, J
DEARDON, B M
HARRIS, E

HOOTON, K
HUME, P
JENKINS, F
McGRATH, N

MINER, W
MONTEITH, B
MURRAY, J
POTTER, J

RYAN, L A
TRAVELLER, K M

VIC

ASTRIDGE, M
BEALE, M J
CANTY, M
COLE, H J

CROUCH, M
GOW, A
MACKIE, P
MELVILLE, V

PARSONS, N
RAY, B
SARGENT, K
SMITH, J

WATKINS, J

SA

FREEMAN, S D
GREEN, M

TAS

BROWN, M
HARGREAVES, B

McCULLOCK, E
MIDGLEY, L

NICHOLS, M
PEGG, H

SHELVERTON, J

50 Year Membership Certificate

QLD

CLIFTON, F
DINGLE, M W
FRANKLIN, D P

HAMILTON, H J
JENSEN, J
LOFTS, A H

MacKENZIE, D
MITCHELL, J
MOURNEY, H J

MUNRO, E C
SMITH, G T
SMITH, J T

NSW

BARBER, WJ
BARBY, BE
BARTLETT, JE
BEATTIE, AC
BOURKE, GJ
BROOKS, NE
BULLUS, MH
CAMPBELL, WJ
CAUSER, RA
CRESWICK, CR
CROSS, E
DEBNAM, JJ
DICKMAN, S
DILLON, PO

EVANS, IJ
FRAME, DC
FUTCHER, CV
GABB, EF
GARDNER, WD
GIFFORD, FW
GODLONTON, CH
GORMAN, JVS
GREIG, RR
GRUMLEY, LN
HARRISON, A
HOWARD, SJ
HUGHES, RE
HUNTER, AP

JOHNSON, CS
JOYCE, SG
KAKIS, J
LESLIE, SA
LINCOLN, AD
MAYNE, BP
MCLEAN, H
MILLIS, JT
MONKCOM, SR
NEWMAN, DAJ
ORME, JW
PATRICK, JA
PETTEIT, RT
PHILIP, AV

PHILP, AV
REYNOLDS, D
RUSHBY, NJ
SCHOMBERG, G
SCOTT, BW
SHARDLOW, S M
SHELLEY, RW
SWAN, WR
SYMINGTON, N
TAYLOR, PR
TINDALL, GW
TOMLIN OAM, RW
WARDMAN, J
WILLCOCKS, CW

VIC

ARCHUR, S
BARKER, B
BARNES, A
BEATTON, T
BENTON, R
BLANDY, D
BURN, N
CAREY, F

DUPE, F
EATON, E
GAUL, R
JOINER, A
LAY, A
McLELLAND, W
MURRAY, R
NEARY, H

NOLAN, AS
OSBORNE, D
OUTHRED, D
REES, R
REEVES, J
SMITH, E
SMITH, G
TARDIF, C

TREWIN, A
TURNER, C
WALLACE, W
WATSON, H H
WHITE, J

SA

APPLEBY, R S
BONYTHON, A M
CHANNON, R D
CONDON, A S

CURL, J E
JARRETT, A J
McLACHLAN, A W D
MUGG, F

PARSONS, C T
ROWE, G E
SMITH, C I
SMITH, G M

SYMONS, K A
WINDEBANK, P T
WITHROW, C L
WOOD, A P

ACT

WRAIGHT, G R

TAS

ARNOLD, M
BRETT, T M
CHAMBERS, J
CLOTHIER, H
DEACON, LA

FARRINGTON, G
HOOPER, R M
LANE, K
MANION, T R
McKENZIE, J T

O'MAY, C
OLIVER, R
OLIVER, R S
REED, A
SAVAGE, D R

TOMES, J D
TORNEY, S J
WATT, R H

WA

GIBSON, D J

MARSHALL, A R

MORRISON, K J

60 Year Certificate

NSW

Greek RSL Sub-Branch

70 Year Certificate

NSW

Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch

75 Year Certificate

NSW

Raymond Terrace RSL Sub-Branch

80 Year Certificate

NSW

Maritime Services Board RSL Sub-Branch
Richmond RSL Sub-Branch
Windsor & District RSL Sub-Branch

90 Year Certificate

NSW

Blackheath-Mt Victoria RSL Sub-Branch
Gloucester RSL Sub-Branch
South Lake Macquarie RSL Sub-Branch

RSL Prizes - 2011

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** (presented biennially) 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 – Midshipman Clare White RAN



RSL National President RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), presents the RSL Sword for Service to Midshipman Clare White RAN in the presence of Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of Australia,

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 Nicholas Barber

December Graduation - Staff Cadet Andrew Henderson

ANZAC Awards

ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize was not awarded in 2011.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2011 ANZAC of the Year award was made to:

Mr William James Humphreys of NSW

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 2011 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

Miss Makare Dillon of Victoria who is studying for her BA Social Work (Human Services) / BA Psychological Science at UNISA, and

Miss Kristiana McFarlane of Queensland who is studying for her Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of QLD.

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 (until June)

Mr Terry Meehan (from June)

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 2011

National Secretary

Mr Derek Robson AM

Secretary to National Secretary

Ms Dawn Kitchener

Business Manager

Mrs Jan Ormerod

National Project Officer

Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis

National Promotions Manager

Mr Pat Scammell

Administrative Assistant

Ms Sarah Blackmore

Reception

Mrs Angela Bell (from March)

RSL Membership Details - as at 31 December 2011

| STATE | RSL MEMBERSHIP | | WOMENS' AUXILIARY | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | Membership | Sub-Branches | Membership | Sub-Branches |
| ACT/Overseas | 2,223 | 15 | - | - |
| NSW | 46,593 | 383 | 3,400 | 174 |
| QLD | 37,142 | 248 | 900 | 36 |
| SA / NT | 12,713 | 136 | 443 | 29 |
| TAS | 4,396 | 51 | 307 | 25 |
| VIC | 64,275 | 298 | 1,350 | 99 |
| WA | 10,003 | 130 | 105 | 9 |
| ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS | | | | |
| 2011 | 177,345 | 1,261 | 6,505 | 372 |
| 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

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CANBERRA ACT 2601

State Branches

ACT

Morshead Home
Archibald Street
LYNEHAM
Postal: GPO Box 708
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6260 6344
Fax: (02) 6295 1628

TAS

ANZAC House
68 Davey Street
HOBART TAS 7000
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

Inside Back

Cover: The Flag Ceremony at the Official Opening of the 2011 National Congress.



Back Cover: **RSL – SUPPORTING THE ADF**

RSL AFOF Parcels

The Returned & Services League of Australia, through the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF), is proud to be able to make a contribution to the welfare of our serving personnel on behalf of our grateful Nation. RSL AFOF provides packages to Australians Defence Force and Australians Federal Police Personnel serving overseas. The majority of these personnel serve in peacemaking missions on a six month rotation basis and, to ensure that each receives the benefit of a package during their period of service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly.

RSL Support Pack

RSL AFOF has identified a need to provide more positive support for those wounded and injured ADF members who require extensive periods of hospitalisation during their recovery and is pleased to be able to provide the 'RSL Support Pack' to every ADF member seriously wounded on overseas service and who requires treatment through the NATO medical facilities in Germany and later long term hospitalisation back in Australia.

RSL - Supporting the ADF

RSL AFOF parcel



Packing AFOF parcels



RSL Support Pack



The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance