



RSL

Returned & Services League of Australia

National Annual Report

2012



A Year to Remember

2012 – A Year of Commemoration

2012 saw the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of many significant campaigns/battles of the Second World War.

Veterans from around Australia took part in commemorative missions in many parts the world including Singapore, North Africa, Timor-Leste, Milne Bay, and Kokoda. The groups represented the thousands of men and women who bravely served through some of the most ferocious fighting of the Second World War.



Front Cover: Kokoda and Beachheads Battles 70th Anniversaries Commemorative Visit

A girl from Kokoda Village raises the Australian flag to start the commemorative service for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda.

(Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs)

Inside Front Cover:

Top photo: **Singapore 70th Anniversary Commemorative visit**

Veterans (l-r) Bill Ennis, Roy Cornford, Derek Holyoake, Peter Dimopoulos, Gordon Butler, George Smith, MAJGEN Mark Kelly (with Australian Federation Guard members behind) at the Part Sulong Memorial, Singapore

Bottom photo: **Milne Bay 70th Anniversary Visit**

Veterans at Milne Bay Memorial: Joe McGrath, Murray Willing, Ed Jones, Nat Gould, Gregor McGregor, Bill Hansen and Ted Bousen.

(Photos courtesy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs)

National President's Report

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National President's Report



Ken Doolan

National President's Newsletters

The year started with a new approach to keeping members as fully informed as possible by the quickest means. This saw the publication of National President's Newsletters on the League's national web site immediately each was written. The 7 newsletters produced during the year covered a wide range of topics and the feedback received was that this method of disseminating information to members in a timely fashion is appreciated. The further publication of this information, in whole or in part, in State Branch or sub-branch newspapers and other publications helps broaden the reach and I encourage all to pass on what is on the national web site to members who for whatever reason prefer to be kept informed by other means.

I encourage all members of the League to visit the national RSL website www.rsl.org.au and to read not only my newsletters but also the other news items from various sources placed there soon after they are received in the national office. The intention is to further enhance the national website during 2013 to make it more attractive to those who visit it. Suggestions as to how the website might be improved are always welcome.

Indexation of Military Superannuation Payments

Our ongoing quest to persuade the Federal Government to accept a more equitable form of indexing payments to military superannuants than is achieved by the application of the Consumer Price Index has not been successful. The issue remains our highest priority and it is encouraging that the Federal Opposition remains committed to enacting legislation to achieve such an outcome if they form government.

It was particularly pleasing that on Monday 5 March 2012 the Leader of the Federal Opposition, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP chose the large RSL Sub-Branch at Bendigo, Victoria to formally launch the commitment of the Federal Coalition Parties to improve the indexation of DFRB and DFRDB superannuation payments. Mr Abbott was accompanied by the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson and Senator Bridget McKenzie. I was accompanied by the RSL Victorian Branch President, Major General David McLachlan and our host, the Bendigo Sub-Branch President Mr Cliff Richards.

Mr Abbott spoke about the determination of the Coalition on gaining government to legislate for an increase in the level of indexation of some military superannuation payments. He said the Coalition accepted the legitimacy of the need to make these

increases. Mr Abbott then handed me a letter committing the Coalition to this policy.

Improvements to Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Legislation

We remain fully engaged with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP in the quest for improvements to the *Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004*. The review of this legislation and proposed amendments to it were largely agreed and it had been hoped amending legislation would have been introduced into Parliament towards the end of 2012. This did not happen but we have every reasonable expectation that the matter will be considered by the House of Representatives and the Senate early next year.

Membership

Though we are having some success in recruiting new members, and particularly younger members, the overall number of members in the League continues to decline as those who served in the Second World War pass on. One particularly pleasing development during the year was the decision of the New South Wales Branch to allow Sub-Branches within the state the option of recruiting affiliate members. But much more remains to be done to ensure the League maintains a large membership so as to be able to be a robust advocate for the needs of the veteran and ex-service community and their dependants and a stalwart supporter of the Australian Defence Force and the men and women who serve in uniform.

Revitalising the membership numbers is a complex issue for which there is no simple solution. Efforts to date such as the introduction of the Defence Virtual Sub-Branch have had limited success.

In a quest to broaden the approach to this challenge, the New South Wales Branch State Executive commissioned some research during 2012. I was privileged to be invited to attend the presentation of the results of this research at year's end and found the information imparted to be most useful. Although the researchers focused on the image of the League amongst our fellow Australians in only one state it is not unreasonable to extrapolate their findings across the nation. This is a matter for detailed consideration and discussion in 2013 – but is not the only aspect to which the League needs to give attention.

Personal one-on-one contact is almost certainly the best means of persuading service or former service personnel to join the RSL. I saw at first-hand how successful this method of recruiting can be when visiting some Sub-Branches during the year. A most notable example is the Stephens Sub-Branch in the Brisbane suburb of Annerley where a concerted recruiting effort by the activist team managing the Sub-Branch has had great success in attracting new and younger members. There are similar examples in other States and I encourage all sub-branch committees to do all they can to get out and about to make personal contact with prospective League members.

Centenary of the First World War

The League continues to be involved at national, state and local levels in evolving plans for the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War including, in particular, the centenary of ANZAC. The ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board of which I am an ex-officio member, meet frequently during the year and submitted its report to government at the end of 2012. It was made clear during all the deliberations of the Board that the delivery of commemorative events during the period 2014 to 2019 (including the centenary of the repatriation of Australians from the battle fields of Europe), will require significant RSL sub-branch involvement. The extent of this involvement and the interface between the national and state commemorative plans is expected to be resolved and announced in 2013.

Support for the Australian Defence Force

Much was achieved during the year to continue the League's proud record of supporting the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. Our efforts through the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund continued unabated and we remained engaged with the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal in seeking to ensure that the pay and allowances of those in the armed forces is just and reasonable. We also continued to give support to those wounded in action through Operation Care, the provision of the RSL support pack and for those in rehabilitation, through various means including the Kokoda Track walk organised and funded by the Queensland Branch.

We continued our opposition to the passage through the Parliament of the *Military Court of Australia Bill 2012*. Our lobbying of federal politicians and others had some success when the Attorney General agreed to remove one particularly egregious clause allowing findings of not guilty to be appealed by the Director of Military Prosecutions. However, the other issue to which we objected, that of the establishment of Military Judges acting alone in trying serious service offences remained in the legislation put before the Parliament. Fortunately there was sufficient opposition with both the House of Representatives and the Senate for the passage of the *Military Court of Australia Bill 2012* to stall. We continue to monitor this matter very closely.

Governance

As part of the Federal Budget it was announced that the Government intended establishing an entity called the Australian Charities & Not for Profits Commission (ACNC). Legislation to give effect to this passed through the Commonwealth Parliament on 1 November 2012 and the ACNC commenced operations on 3 December 2012. The impact of this new body on the governance of the League is a matter for all sub-branches and Branches and I encourage all office holders to visit the relevant Australian Government web site www.acnc.gov.au.

Welfare

The core business of the League in supporting the veteran and ex-service community and dependants has continued with great success during the year. I was reminded of the hard work of sub-branch office holders in caring for those in need during my visits to sub-branches in several States during the year and I convey my congratulations to all for the magnificent work you continue to do. The justifiable pride of sub-branch committee members, pension officers, welfare officers and advocates as I travelled around the nation was most heartening – as also was desire to commemorate those who have gone before by maintaining superb displays of memorabilia in so many of the sub-branches.

It is a great privilege to share some time in our sub-branches and to talk to those who strive relentlessly to work for the good of the League and the nation. To one and all I convey my admiration and sincere thanks and wish you all the best for 2013.

KEN DOOLAN
National President

National Conference

The 96th Annual National Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia was held in Sydney, New South Wales during 25-26 September.

This year's Conference was preceded by the National Membership/Marketing Forum on 24 September.

A wreath laying ceremony, held at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park on 26 September was very well attended.

The Official Opening was held on 25 September at the Powerhouse Museum Auditorium during which the Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, addressed the audience via a video presentation. The Leader of the Federal Opposition, The Hon. Tony Abbot MP also spoke during the ceremony. An address by the National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) was entitled 'An RSL Vision of the Future'.

Three guest speakers addressed the Conference after which a panel discussion was conducted.

Topics and guest speakers for the sessions of the Conference were:

- 'The RSL and Australian Society - A Perspective'
Major General Paul Brereton AM RFD
Head Cadet Reserve and Employer Support Division
- 'The New Zealand Perspective'
Lieutenant General Don McIver CMG OBE
National President, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- 'A Sustainable Defence Capability for Australia'
Dr Michael Wesley
Executive Director
Lowy Institute for International Policy
- Panel Discussion - 'The Challenges of Attracting new RSL Members'
Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC RAAFAR
Chairman, RSL National Conditions of Service Committee

During the last session of the Conference the League's Annual General Meeting was convened where the financial and other reports were received and adopted, the national officers elected, and motions from Branches debated and considered.

During the Conference, the following national officers were returned:

National President:

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)

Deputy National President:

Mr Don Rowe OAM

National Treasurer:

Mr David Sinclair

Representatives of [Overseas Ex-Service Organisations](#) attending the Conference were:

- LTGEN Don McIver CMG OBE - National President, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- Mr Pat Duggan QSM JP - Canterbury District President, Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- Ms Helena Lee - Chairman, Republic of China Veterans Association (ROCVA) (Taiwan) (Syd)
- Mr Michael Yeh - Vice Chair ROCVA (Syd)
- Mr Larry Chen - Past Chair ROCVA (Syd)
- Ms Jennifer Lung - Member ROCVA (Syd)
- Mr Ming Chau - Member (Syd)

Motions

24 motions were tabled and debated, covering the following topics:

- Veterans' Affairs Matters
- RSL Standing Policy
- ANZAC, Commemoration, Ceremonial and Memorials
- Defence Conditions of Service
- Military Superannuation

Messages

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

- Veterans Federation of the Philippines
- Legiun Veteran Republik Indonesia
- The Royal British Legion
- The American Legion
- Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League
- Royal Canadian Legion

Functions

Conference delegates attended a Reception hosted by the Governor at Government House.

The National Conference Dinner was held at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney.

Thank You

The general arrangements for the conduct of the National Conference are regularly organised by the National Headquarters staff in Canberra, but any successful Conference could not be achieved without the direct assistance of the host State. Our sincere thanks go to all involved. Their efforts were very much appreciated.

2013 National Conference

The venue for the 2013 National Conference will be advised early in 2013.

National Secretary's Report



Derek Robson
National Secretary

The National Headquarters is committed to the principal object of the League – promoting the interest and welfare of former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependents.

This requires that the Headquarters is always abreast of the concerns and requirements of the membership and the wider general community. It also requires that our service delivery is timely, appropriate and complete in all of its details or advice.

The small Headquarters staff works hard to meet these requirements, takes great pride in these efforts and we should all be most grateful to each and every member of the staff for their personal loyalty, dedication and support of the League and its members.

The League continues to support the serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force. The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund provides comfort packages to all serving members of the Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police serving overseas in both May and November.

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

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

The major National Committees for Veterans' Affairs, Defence, Defence Conditions of Service, Finance and ANZAC Awards have all made significant contributions during the year and have provided excellent advice to the National Executive. The considerable effort of all those involved in these Committees, as well as our other advisory bodies, the Aged Care Forum, the National Membership and Marketing Forum, the National Clubs and Licensed Sub-Branched Forum, and the National Tribunal, is very well respected and much

appreciated. Their efforts have also ensured that the RSL is well informed, acknowledged as a significant contributor to national forums and at the forefront of community debate.

The Headquarters received many calls for assistance from groups and individuals, and the constant request for information from webmail enquirers, which have largely replaced much of the traditional letter writing responses, ensured that we remained connected to the broader Australian community. Importantly, this confirms that Australians are deeply committed to issues related to our military history and commemorative activity and our involvement greatly assists us in meeting our Object that the deeds of those who have served their Nation will never be forgotten.

The Headquarters hosted the regular meetings of the National Executive in March, August and November, and the September National Conference was held in Sydney, New South Wales. This year's National Conference again continued in its new format designed to showcase the League and present many of the differing facets of our activity.

The League has much to offer our serving and ex-serving members and it also makes a significant contribution to the wider Australian community. The National Headquarters is well placed to support this ongoing effort.

The Headquarters has achieved much during the year and similarly looks forward to servicing the needs of the League and its members in the coming year.

DEREK 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 2012.

The net result of the year's operations on an accrual basis was a surplus of \$111,225 compared with a surplus of \$428,913 for the previous year. Revenue from ordinary activities at \$1,447,748 was virtually the same as for the previous year. However, expenses increased by \$330,696 to \$1,336,523. The principal contributors to this increase in outlays were additional staffing and related costs, relocation costs and a variety of additional costs across a broad number of expense categories. Salaries and superannuation, together with provisions for long service leave and annual leave represented about 45% of total current account expenses. Overall, total equity for the National Headquarters increased by \$111,225, to \$2,583,676.

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, MCS Audit, 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

DIRECTORS' 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 HELD	ATTENDED
K A Doolan AO	Member National Executive	2 year, 9 months	3
W E Gaynor OAM RFD	Member National Executive	10 years, 11 months	3
D J McLachlan AO JP	Member National Executive	10 years, 1 month	3
D E J Rowe OAM	Member National Executive	8 years, 7 months	3
J H Statton OAM	Member National Executive	8 years	3
W Kaine MBE	Member National Executive	3 year, 2 months	3
J King	Member National Executive	3 year, 1 month	3
T Meehan	Member National Executive	1 year, 1 month	0
C Munday	Member National Executive	1 month	0

The following changes of Directors occurred during the financial year:

Retiring Directors: W Kaine MBE

Incoming Directors: C Munday

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 organisations; 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 \$111,225.

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: 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

2011 \$	Notes	2012 \$
<u>1,434,741</u>		<u>1,447,748</u>
	Revenue from ordinary activities	
149,748	Administration expenses	181,414
464,912	Employee benefits expense	611,252
22,213	Occupancy expenses	20,728
46,398	Depreciation	42,026
44,336	Meeting and conference expenses	37,922
15,695	Insurance costs	16,801
13,190	Accounting and auditing fees	13,128
54,302	Commissions - to States for UNIBIC sales	75,984
7,996	National Governance Review	-
187,038	Other expenses from ordinary activities	<u>337,267</u>
<u>1,005,827</u>	Total Expenses	<u>1,336,523</u>
	(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	<u>111,225</u>

Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities

Net Surplus for Year

-		
<u>428,913</u>		<u>111,225</u>

Statement of Changes in Equity

Balance at 30th June, 2010	2,043,538
Surplus for the Year 2011	<u>428,913</u>
Balance at 30th June, 2011	<u>2,472,451</u>
balance at 30th June, 2011	2,472,451
Surplus for Year 2012	<u>111,225</u>
Balance at 30th June, 2012	<u>2,583,676</u>

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

2011 \$	Notes	2012 \$
	Current Assets	
795,894	Cash assets	978,039
122,788	Receivables	148,693
7,736	Other	54,703
<u>592,754</u>	Inventory	<u>7,736</u>
<u>1,519,172</u>	Investments	<u>631,955</u>
	Total Current Assets	<u>1,821,126</u>
	Non-Current Assets	
<u>1,226,583</u>	Property, plant and equipment	<u>1,180,358</u>
<u>1,226,583</u>	Total Non-Current Assets	<u>1,180,358</u>
<u>2,745,755</u>	Total Assets	<u>3,001,484</u>
	Current Liabilities	
67,026	Payables	167,599
<u>201,365</u>	Provisions	<u>238,808</u>
<u>268,391</u>	Total Current Liabilities	<u>406,407</u>
	Non-Current Liabilities	
<u>4,913</u>	Provisions	<u>11,401</u>
<u>4,913</u>	Total Non-Current Liabilities	<u>11,401</u>
<u>273,304</u>	Total Liabilities	<u>417,808</u>
<u>2,472,451</u>	Net Assets	<u>2,583,676</u>
	Equity	
<u>2,472,451</u>	Retained earnings	<u>2,583,676</u>
<u>2,472,451</u>	Total Equity	<u>2,583,676</u>

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

2011	2012	Notes
\$	\$	
1,360,175	1,378,946	
(987,792)	(1,230,600)	
74,566	68,802	
446,949	217,148	
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
		Receipts from customers
		Payments to employees and suppliers
		Interest received
		Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities 18a
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
(444,963)	(21,560)	Payments for property, vehicle & equipment
21,818	25,758	Proceeds from sale of vehicle, plant & equipment
(423,145)	4,198	Net cash used in investing activities
23,804	221,346	Net Increase/(Decrease) In Cash Held
1,364,844	1,388,648	Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year
1,388,648	1,609,994	Cash At The End Of The Financial Year 18b

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

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 2012

- 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 2012

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

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.

NOTE	2011 \$	2012 \$
3 PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses:		
(a) Operating revenue		
Capitation fees	814,520	769,401
Commission - UNIBIC	197,508	305,950
Grants	40,000	-
Donations (net of share to States)	251,917	215,681
Royalties	26,482	31,956
National Governance Review	16,170	-
Interest	74,566	68,802
Other revenue from ordinary activities	<u>13,577</u>	<u>55,958</u>
	<u>1,434,741</u>	<u>1,447,748</u>

b) Expenses

Depreciation of Non Current Assets:

Buildings	10,615	10,615
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	7,800	9,206
Motor vehicles	14,589	10,519
Computer hardware and software	13,112	11,425
Library, plaques & RSL march	<u>282</u>	<u>261</u>
	<u>46,398</u>	<u>42,026</u>

Net transfers to/(from) provisions:

Employee entitlements	3,875	15,796
Annual leave	<u>6,747</u>	<u>28,135</u>
Long service leave	<u>10,622</u>	<u>43,931</u>
	<u>6,193</u>	<u>169</u>

Operating lease rental expenses

Government Grant - Contributions towards:	3,000	-
- National Executive	8,000	-
- National Congress	13,000	-
- National President's Expenses	12,000	-
- National Headquarters Travel	<u>4,000</u>	<u>-</u>
- Community Consultation	<u>40,000</u>	<u>-</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 2012

2011	NOTE	2012
\$		\$
500	4	373
546,923	CASH ASSETS	872,792
248,471	Cash on hand	104,873
795,894	Cash at bank - General Funds	978,039
	Cash at bank - Building Fund	
17,825	5	50,964
104,963	CURRENT RECEIVABLES	97,729
122,788	Trade receivables	148,693
	GST receivable/sundry debtors	
-	6	11,744
	OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	42,959
	Advances - Associated Funds	54,703
	Prepayments	
	7	
592,754	INVESTMENTS	631,955
	Current	
	Term deposit	

NOTE 8 PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Buildings at cost	Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures at cost	Motor Vehicles at cost	Computer Hardware & Software at cost	Library, Plaques & RSL March at cost	TOTAL
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance start of year	1,210,396	239,631	73,669	53,997	11,877	1,589,570
Additions	15,046			6,514		21,560
Disposals			(36,693)			(36,693)
Balance at end of year	1,210,396	254,677	36,976	60,511	11,877	1,574,437
<i>Accumulated Depreciation and Amortisation</i>						
Balance at start of year	(144,383)	(161,404)	(7,622)	(41,178)	(8,400)	(362,987)
Depreciation	(10,615)	(9,206)	(10,519)	(11,425)	(261)	(42,026)
Disposals			10,934			16,081
Balance at end of year	(154,998)	(170,610)	(7,207)	(52,603)	(8,661)	(362,987)
As at 30 June 2012	1,055,398	84,067	29,769	7,908	3,216	1,180,358

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

2011	NOTE	2012
\$		\$
10,647	9	62,594
56,379	CURRENT PAYABLES	105,005
67,026	Trade creditors	167,599
	Other payables	
117,492	10	133,288
83,873	CURRENT PROVISIONS	105,520
201,365	Annual leave (note 12.)	238,808
	Long service leave (note 12.)	
4,913	11	11,401
	NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS	
	Long service leave (note 12.)	
592,754	12	238,808
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	11,401
	The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:	250,209
	Provisions for employee entitlements	
	Current (note 10.)	
	Non-current	
6	13	6
	Number of employees (on a full-time equivalent basis) at the end of the financial year	
2,043,538	CHANGE IN EQUITY	2,472,451
428,913	RETAINED EARNINGS	111,225
2,472,451	Balance at the beginning of financial year	2,472,451
	Net Profit(loss) attributable to members	
	Balance at the end of the financial year	
3,500	14	4,500
1,400	REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR	1,500
500	Remuneration of the auditor for:	500
5,400	Auditing the financial report	6,500
	General accounting services	
	FBT return	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

NOTE

15 **SEGMENT INFORMATION**

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

16 **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

a. Interest Rate Risk

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

2011	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	Maturity 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%	486,616	841,225		17,825	1,405,973
Financial Liabilities						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%				-	67,026
Employee entitlements	0.00%				-	206,278
						273,304

2012	Average Interest	Variable Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate		Non Interest Bearing	Total
			Less than 1 year	Maturity 1 to 5 Years		
	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets						
Cash	1-5.75%	570,344	104,873		302,448	977,665
Investments	5.75%		631,955			631,955
Receivables	0.00%	570,344	736,828		50,964	1,660,584
Financial Liabilities						
Creditors & accruals	0.00%				167,599	167,599
Employee entitlements	0.00%				250,209	250,209
					-	417,808

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

2011	NOTE	2012
\$		\$
387,920	17 TRUST FUNDS	
<u>387,920</u>	(a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>397,469</u>
241,316	(b) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>264,460</u>
<u>15,827</u>	(c) VICTORIA GROSS AND HISTORIC MEDALS TRUST Cash at bank	<u>16,874</u>
106,661	(d) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>105,625</u>
901,412	(e) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>902,705</u>
<u>27,926</u>	(f) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES Cash at bank (Bastian Plaques)	<u>31,930</u>
117,073	(g) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	<u>132,421</u>
<u>5,342</u>	(h) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank	<u>5,144</u>
290,637	(i) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	<u>354,477</u>
335,814	(j) RSL FOUNDATION FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	<u>341,823</u>

2011 NOTE 18

2012 \$

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

428,913	111,225
46,398	42,026
10,622	43,931
(56,774)	(25,905)
3,651	-
25,735	(54,703)
(11,797)	100,573
<u>446,949</u>	<u>217,148</u>

(Increase)/Decrease in assets

Current receivables
Current inventories
Other current assets
Other current liabilities

Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities

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:

795,894	978,039
<u>592,754</u>	<u>631,955</u>
<u>1,388,648</u>	<u>1,609,994</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 \$25,758. 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

NOTE 20

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited has entered into an arrangement with a private contractor whereby the contractor will build new premises for occupation by the League National Headquarters. The arrangement is such that the League will be charged a discounted lease amount for such time as the League National Headquarters occupy the building. If at any time in the future the League Headquarters vacate the premises the contractor has the right to recoup the difference between the agreed lease and the market value of the lease.

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

A.C.N 008 488 097

DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes as set out on the attached report are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:
 - a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations Act 2001; and
 - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2012 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 ELEVENTH day of SEPTEMBER 2012

National Membership Report

Membership Statistics: Nationally, RSL membership at the end of 2012 was:

State	Service Members	Life, Hon Life/Life Subscribers	Affiliates	Total Members (incl. Affiliates)	% of RSL	Women's Auxiliary Members
ACT	1,346	163	112	1,621	0.97%	nil
NSW	37,290	6,569	nil	43,841	26.18%	3,109
QLD	19,677	15,990	nil	35,667	21.30%	2,170
SA/NT	6750	744	4,924	12418	7.42%	280
TAS	3,038	107	1,313	4,458	2.66%	277
VIC	28,356	1,600	29,920	59,876	35.76%	1,345
WA	7,886	197	1,484	9,567	5.71%	88
TOTAL	104,343	25,370	37,753	167,448	100.00%	7,269

2010/11 saw the introduction and enhancement of a number of initiatives designed to boost our ranks and also improve retention and value for existing members. These have been further progressed in 2012.

The adoption of a standard format "national look" card across the State Branches was designed to assist in our move to reciprocal rights based on the card and of course the use of such a card sends an important message about the League as a cohesive and effective national organisation. The advice during 2012 that changes in state legislation meant 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 few 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. At the end of 2012 a positive example of this was achieved with the member discount offer agreed with the Accor Hotels Group.

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 rewritten Sub-Branch Membership Officer handbook, reflecting the new By-Law and giving guidance on recruiting and retention strategies was endorsed by National Executive, for distribution to State Branches and sub-branches. Both the revised By-Law-1, and the membership guidance continue to be effectively applied with no need for changes at this time. The introduction of Affiliates into the NSW Branch in 2012 has been a major development in keeping smaller country sub-branches in NSW going, and is to be welcomed.

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 2012 we have been pleased with retention and in 2013 further development will occur to enhance the Sub-Branch website, as well as launching a renewed push for more ADF members, based not only on membership offers but most importantly what the League does for currently serving ADF personnel.

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 opportunity to join the Defence Sub-Branch. There is also extensive advertising of the Sub-Branch in a number of defence and ex-service publications.

In summary, 2012 has been a year of consolidating some recent renewal work and introducing new membership opportunities. The focus for 2012 has been 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 and to work towards the establishment of a well resourced marketing/promotions team at the National Headquarters to support the efforts of all Branches and Sub-Branches. 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

Napoleon Bonaparte wrote: "One must change one's tactics every ten years if one wishes to maintain one's superiority". RSL (Queensland Branch) has adopted Bonaparte's philosophy. At the end of 2011 an Extraordinary General Meeting was held where the delegates voted to adopt a new Constitution. The old rules and by-laws had served Queensland well for 94 years but had become outdated and unworkable in recent years.

If the League is able to attract younger veterans and current serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel into our ranks, changes must be implemented in order to maintain the relevance of the League; hence the need to change the old ways.

It is vital that we do not repeat the errors of the past; RSL (Queensland Branch) needs to respect the past but work towards securing the future. A change of this magnitude has not been without its teething problems but I am happy to report that the teams are working through these issues and we are rapidly moving ahead.

In 2012 RSL (Queensland Branch) has made significant inroads into building the relationship between the ADF and RSL. Ties have been strengthened with all of the ADF Bases here in Queensland; in particular with Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane and Lavarack Barracks in Townsville due to our involvement with the Soldier Recovery Centres (SRCs). The centres help soldiers on their mission for recovery with the generous support of the Soldier Recovery Centres (SRCs) in Brisbane and Townsville (Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera and Lavarack Barracks, Townsville). These centres provide practical support for wounded, injured or ill soldiers and were established by the Australian Army to meet the needs of an increasing number of wounded, injured and ill soldiers with complex physical and mental injuries.

These centres are designed to provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to the physical and mental rehabilitation of today's soldiers and work in close collaboration with various service providers. The SRCs encourage soldiers to reach one of three goals – return to their original roles, transition to another role within Defence Force or develop the confidence and skills to find a career in the civilian world. This is achieved through a holistic approach to physical and mental rehabilitation. RSL (Queensland Branch) recognises that today's soldiers require extra resources and support services for their overall health and wellbeing and through the supporting initiatives like the SRC's, the League in Queensland is making sure help is always at hand.

Another way in which RSL (Queensland Branch) connects with current serving ADF personnel is via social media. Our facebook page is regularly updated providing membership with information of events and commemorations, (State President Mr Terry Meehan) 'blogs' every month and utilises Twitter and You Tube. Social media is a useful tool and is specifically aimed at connecting with the younger demographic. In this electronic age, the speed in which events are communicated is vastly different from the military world

of old and is so effective in ensuring the membership base (via the sub-branches and districts), is informed with up to date information and directives as they occur.

The Strategic Plan is reviewed annually by the Board of Directors to better align RSL (Queensland Branch) with key strategic and corporate goals. Board governance training equips the Board members with the tools to ensure this alignment and together with the ANZAC House Management Team; the CEO facilitates the delivery of the Strategic Plan as directed by the Board.

One of the key RSL Strategic Plan objectives is 'being a key facilitator amongst the veteran social responsibility community' 2012 saw RSL (Queensland Branch) move towards this goal. Highlights include:

- Continuing the support to the veteran community by extending our crisis and short-term accommodation facilities to include one located in Brisbane and the other at the Gold Coast.
- Providing aged care facilities located in Cairns, Mareeba, Ayr, Emu Park and Gayndah.
- Future plans include the redevelopment of Warhaven Home located in Cairns. The facility will be modernised in line with the scheduled maintenance program.
- Build contemporary Independent Living Units (ILUs) on the Gold Coast to meet demand from the ageing veteran population.

RSL (Queensland Branch) continues to build the necessary business and communication platforms to support the sustainable implementation of the Strategic plan through the Art Union Lottery. Sales have continued to grow in popularity and as a result, exceptional ticket sales have been realised:

- National media coverage introduced thousands of new players to the RSL Art Union.
- A sell out of three draws in succession highlighted the appetite of Australians to help our returned servicemen and women whilst being given the chance to win a life changing prize.
- Luxury properties stretching from the Sunshine Coast to Sydney made 10 players instant millionaires.



Art Union Property located at Broachbeach, Gold Coast.

Another focus area has been to ensure each of the districts and sub-branches are commercially viable now

and into the future. One element of this has been the progress made by the tax project to ensure sub-branches are meeting their objects as defined by the ATO. A total of 198 sub-branches now successfully processed through this tax program. The most significant change throughout the year has been the introduction of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) on the 3 December 2012. The Commission has been introduced to act as a new Commonwealth regulator to enhance the public's confidence in the not-for-profit sector by increasing the transparency and accountability of in the first instance charities. This means more compliance for our sub-branches and we will assist them by providing guidance as to the requirements of the ACNC, to do this we will have ongoing discussions with the ACNC both by the State Branch and its advisors.

The 2012 RSL ANZAC Appeal ran through the month of April, with the grand finalé being our annual ANZAC Eve Concert held on April 24 in partnership with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. This appeal is just one of our major fundraising initiatives for the year. In 2012 the aim was to raise \$1 for the 420,127 Queenslanders who have courageously fought for our freedom since 1915 and funds raised during the RSL ANAZC Appeal will directly assist directly assists both current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.



Queensland Police Pipes & Drums play for the crowd

The major highlight of the RSL (Queensland Branch) year was the AGM held in Port Douglas in June. The AGM is an important event for Queenslanders to give them the platform to discuss important issues facing the League as well as hear the views of both current and ex-service personnel. It is also the forum where policies are discussed, updated or amended with input from delegates who have travelled from across the State. Each delegate is given the opportunity to represent their sub-branch at a grass roots level in their community and express their thoughts, ideas and concerns for the wider RSL community.

This was the first AGM since the adoption of the new Constitution and provided a key opportunity to shape the future direction of the organisation. The 97th AGM focussed on the changing needs of the ex-service community and tackled issues such as those faced by current serving ADF personnel. The League recognises the importance in leading the charge by recruiting younger members while continuing to provide welfare and advocacy to those in need. In line with the Strategic Plan, Queensland continues in our mission of

being *the* ex-service organisation by engaging with the community and supporting those in need.



AGM Opening Ceremony, ANZAC Park, Port Douglas

Expert panels discussed the changing face of veterans' needs and emphasised the need to address the increasing rate of mental health issues amongst contemporary veterans. Sub-branches were encouraged to become more involved with issues facing these veteran communities at a national level.

Also reiterated was the vital need to take charge in gaining and retaining a younger membership base, while continuing to provide advocacy and welfare services to those in need, engaging the community and ways in which the League can better support currently serving personnel.

RSL (Queensland Branch) was involved in a number of activities throughout 2012 which were focussed at the younger demographic including the initiative 'RSL Soldiers Kokoda'. The trek raises awareness of the sacrifices Australian Defence Force personnel have made for our country and is an opportunity to connect with our brave forefathers. The experience plays a vital role in not only the physical rehabilitation of wounded, injured and ill soldiers, but also their mental recovery. The 2012 expedition was particularly significant as it marked the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. The 96km track through the rugged mountainous rainforest terrain of Papua New Guinea holds an important place in Australian history and walking the track provides the soldiers with an enduring memory of the strength those soldiers displayed through severe adversity. RSL (Queensland Branch) is proud to support injured and wounded soldiers as part of the RSL Soldiers Kokoda program.

On 26 August 2012, the RSL Bulimba Festival returned, and as promised, was bigger and more action packed than ever before, attracting a crowd of over 100,000 people. The free community event, held along Oxford Street in the Brisbane suburb of Bulimba, played host to great live entertainment from some of Australia's finest artists, including Wendy Matthews and Mark Seymour, a vibrant mix of 200 market stalls, together with the introduction of a "Kids Corner".

The festival was adopted by RSL (Queensland Branch) in 2011 to promote the interests and welfare of former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force to the wider community. In 2011, its first year, the rejuvenated community festival attracted a crowd of over 35,000 people. This initiative is vital to RSL's goal

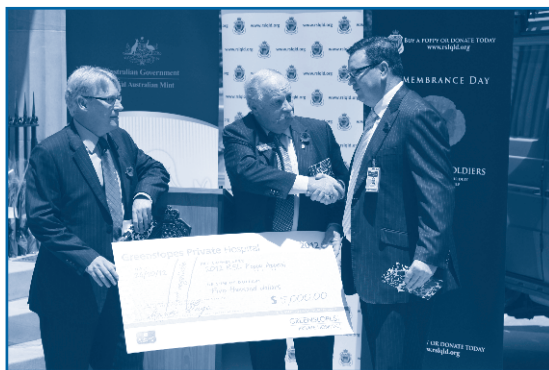
of connecting with the broader community, young and old, and raising awareness of the assistance we provide to the brave men and women who have served or are currently serving.



Enjoying the Navy Band at RSL Bulimba Festival 2012

The 2012 RSL Poppy Appeal was launched on October 26 and ran through to Remembrance Day, November 11. This is our major fundraising initiative and the 2012 aim was to raise half a million dollars. Funds raised during the 2012 RSL Poppy Appeal will directly assist both current and former serving members of the ADF and their dependants. In recognition of Remembrance Day, the appeal highlights the sacrifices made by men and women who serve in the Australian Defence Force.

The 2012 Poppy Appeal hit the road with a regional tour of the State. From October 30 through to November 8, RSL (Queensland Branch) CEO Mr Chris McHugh, visited Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Townsville, and Mackay to raise awareness about the importance of Remembrance Day and how to be involved with the 2012 RSL Poppy Appeal. For the first time Channel Nine Queensland and RSL (Queensland Branch) joined forces to highlight the vital role of the RSL in a television special 'RSL Queensland: Behind the Bravery'. The 30 minute special which aired on November 4 gave a unique look into some of the important welfare projects, rehabilitation programs and community development initiatives undertaken by RSL (Queensland Branch).



Deputy President Mr John Strachan OAM accepting a donation from Greenslopes Private Hospital

In honour of the sacrifices thousands of Australians have made in wars, armed conflicts and peacekeeping operations, the Royal Australian Mint, in partnership with the RSL, is releasing Australia's first ever coloured commemorative \$2 coin. The coloured coin was released in the lead-up to Remembrance Day with only half a million coins circulated nationally through the RSL Poppy Appeal.

Another important RSL (Queensland Branch) initiative is the Youth Development Program. Nearly 200 of Queensland's most exceptional students were awarded a kick-start for their 2013 dreams with the YDP. The annual RSL YDP has awarded over \$500,000 worth of grants to 199 go-getting teenagers from as far afield as Mt Isa, Fraser Island, Cairns, Charleville, Mackay, Kingaroy, Goondiwindi and Mudgeeraba. The RSL is excited to provide practical support to some of Queensland's best and brightest young people. These grants of up to \$5,000 are a genuine boost for students who excel in areas such as maths, science, sport, dance and music. Some will be lending a hand with grassroots community projects in Australia and overseas.

RSL (Queensland Branch) was delighted when 2012 Olympic hopeful Ms Brittany Broben won a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics for her 10 meter platform dive. Ms Broben is a previous YDP recipient – her request for assistance was of course, for diving lessons!

Our Pensions, Welfare & Advisory Service (PAWS) continues to provide services in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay and Toowoomba, and 2012 saw new PAWS offices opened in the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

The team contribute to presentations at the ADF transitional seminars, welcome home parades and the numerous defence family days which are held across bases in Queensland.

The PAWS training forum was held in Gympie and invited delegates from RSL Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, to assist Sub Branch volunteer practitioners with Pensions, Welfare and Advocacy.

In closing, I would like to give my thanks for continued contribution from our Board of Directors, ANZAC House staff, the Sub Branch Executives and their Committees, Women's and Citizen's Auxiliaries and all volunteers. Not forgetting the valuable support provided by their wives, husbands and partners who allow them to provide an invaluable service to the Defence community.

Thank you one and all.

Terry Meehan
CHAIRMAN

New South Wales Branch Report

Membership

The 96th Annual State Congress, held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club on 29-30 May 2012, passed a resolution to allow sub-branches in NSW to admit non-service personnel as affiliate members. The decision is the most significant change to membership regulations in several decades and was carried overwhelmingly as a majority of delegates decided affiliate membership would assist many small sub-branches to survive.

There is no compulsion on sub-branches to recruit or admit affiliate members; each sub-branch was given the right to debate this within its own membership, and then to accept or reject the recommendation. A number of sub-branches reported an immediate positive response, but full affiliate membership figures will not be available until after all sub-branches have held annual general meetings in the months leading up to the 2013 State Congress.

The historic change to membership regulations follows several years of debate and failed attempts to amend the NSW State Branch constitution, and brings NSW into line with other State Branches. The new category of membership will apply to people who are relatives of eligible servicemen and women, to those who have given service to the League, and to those who can demonstrate their willingness to comply with the League's philosophies and aims.

At the end of December 2012 membership of the NSW Branch stood at 43,841. Of these 53% belong to Sydney metropolitan sub-branches and 45% to country sub-branches, with the remainder unattached. Total membership fell by 2,752 during the year. The passing of WWII veterans is apparent in comparative membership figures from decades earlier – the NSW Branch had 73,328 members in 2002 and 104,975 members in 1992.

The NSW Branch has continued to focus on the recruitment of younger veterans and serving ADF personnel and to develop ways of assisting them and their families. The Younger Veterans' Forum is an active group formed specifically to identify issues facing serving and recently retired personnel and to suggest ways of supporting them.

Vale



The League lost one of its most passionate leaders with the death on 2 July of Warren George Osmond AM, OBE, who served as NSW State Branch Secretary from 1961 until 1992. During his tenure as the longest-serving State Secretary, Warren Osmond was

committed to the RSL's aims and objectives and steered the State Branch into sound investments to

ensure it would remain financially strong and always be capable of caring for its members.

Warren Osmond had enlisted in the Australian Army in 1942, rose to the rank of Captain, was discharged in July 1946 and joined the RSL at Maitland in 1948. He held many sub-branch positions, was Executive Commissioner of the Australian Forces Overseas Fund, and chairman of the RSL Permanent Building Society.

He was presented with an OBE by Governor Sir Roden Cutler in 1970, an OBE by the Queen in 1975, and an AM by Governor Sir David Martin in 1989. The NSW State Branch and its members owe much to the vision and energy of Warren Osmond.

The NSW Branch was also saddened by the deaths in 2012 of Major General Sandy Pearson AO, DSO, OBE, MC and of Major General Alan Stretton AO, CBE.

Sandy Pearson was a former Task Force Commander in Vietnam, RMC Duntroon Commandant, and Chief of Army Personnel. In retirement he served on various RSL committees, was a familiar figure at commemorative events, and an occasional ANZAC Day March commander.

Alan Stretton was best known for having taken command of the recovery of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy in 1974, having earlier commanded the 2nd Battalion RAR during its tour of duty in Malaya and having served as Army Chief of Staff in Vietnam in 1969. In retirement he was a respected and enthusiastic contributor to League activities.

Welfare and Benevolent Institution

The year 2012 was marked by a significant change and re-branding for the Welfare and Benevolent Institution, following a review of its operations by management consultants. Now known to the veteran and service communities as DefenceCare, the WBI has embarked on a campaign to market its many services and to raise awareness of the assistance made available through the League's welfare arm.

The free charitable services available from DefenceCare include assistance with entitlements such as pensions and benefits, advocacy at Veterans' Review Board hearings, counselling, material support and financial assistance.

WBI also sponsored the official ADF Operation Hellfire Pass in late 2012, when the RSL organised a trip to Thailand for 10 young men who had been severely wounded or injured while serving in Afghanistan. The visit coincided with Remembrance Day and the group attended a service at the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Kanchanaburi, before walking along a section of the Burma-Siam railway line and reflecting on the deaths of 13,000 POWs during WWII. It was an opportunity for these young veterans to relax and compare notes, an important step in their rehabilitation.

The work of WBI/DefenceCare is supported financially by many generous donors, including individual members, RSL sub-branches and Women's Auxiliaries. The ANZAC Day appeal raised \$792,000 in 2012 and the Poppy Day appeal another \$513,000.

Commemorations

On ANZAC Day almost 18,000 people took part in the March through the Sydney CBD, led by the Governor of NSW, Prof Marie Bashir, and under the command of Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, Commander Australian Fleet. Martin Place was filled to capacity for the Dawn Service, which continues to grow in its importance for families honouring those who lost their lives in war. The Commemorative Service at the ANZAC Memorial and the Sunset Service at the Cenotaph also were extremely well attended.

The presence of Australia's most recent Victoria Cross recipient, Corporal Daniel Keighran VC, was a significant element in the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, with hundreds of people acknowledging his bravery and service to Australia. Corporal Keighran joined General Peter Cosgrove, former Chief of the ADF, in laying a wreath of native flowers.



Corporal Daniel Keighran VC attends the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place

Although a wreath-laying ceremony will always be held at the Cenotaph on VP Day, the major service is now held in the spacious surrounds of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, adjacent to Concord Repatriation General Hospital. The VP Day address was delivered by the Governor of NSW, Prof Marie Bashir. The 2012 service also marked the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Xanana Gusmao, laid a wreath at the Commando Memorial Seat in Martin Place on 19 February to mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the Battle for Timor. He joined members of the Australian Commando Association in honouring the 70 officers and 1330 men of Sparrow Force, as well as 500 Dutch and 150 Portuguese troops, who had faced the Japanese invasion force on Timor.

Other commemorations during 2012 included a service to mark the 70th anniversary of the Japanese submarine attack on Sydney Harbour and the sinking of

HMAS Kuttabul; a Boer War Commemorative Service; a Kokoda Day commemoration at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway; and the annual ceremony at the ANZAC Memorial to honour the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans.

Australian Forces Overseas Fund

More than 3500 parcels were packed during May and November for shipment to support Australian personnel posted overseas. The RSL AFOF parcels were destined for ADF personnel in Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Middle East, Sudan, Sinai and the Solomons. Each package contained a variety of items, including ANZAC biscuits, confectionery, peanuts, muesli bars, a copy of the RSL magazine Reveille, and a letter of appreciation.

The parcels were prepared by volunteers from the RSL State Branch and sub-branches, civilians from the Defence and Veterans' Affairs Departments, and members of the Deployed Forces Support Unit (39th Battalion) at Randwick Barracks.

The NSW Division of RSL AFOF also provided satellite TV services for the crews of ships deployed on Operation Slipper, recreation equipment for troops serving at Tarin Kowt and elsewhere in Afghanistan, and fitness equipment for RAAF personnel stationed in Dubai.

AFOF funds were boosted by a \$12,500 donation from the United Returned Soldiers Fund raised by the sale of tokens on ANZAC Day.

RSL LifeCare

The operations of RSL LifeCare continue to grow and confirm the organisation as one of the nation's most significant and successful providers of retirement living and aged care. During 2012 new villages were opened at Port Macquarie, Lismore and Goonellabah, and the facilities at Hawks Nest were greatly expanded.

The Port Macquarie RSL Sub-Branch had operated Riverside Palms for 25 years but recognised that services could be enhanced by handing the village to RSL LifeCare. Renamed Le Hamel Village, it will benefit from a program of improvements.

Chauvel Village at Lismore honours General Sir Harry Chauvel who was born in the region in 1865. Chauvel village has opened to new residents taking advantage of its superb North Coast location. The abandoned Lismore Private Hospital was acquired by RSL LifeCare in February and was refurbished to transform it into a modern residential care home. Now re-named Fromelles Manor, it will offer 64 single-bed rooms with ensuite bathrooms, a chapel and extensive recreation and dining facilities.

The Myall Lodge aged care facility at Hawks Nest has been redeveloped from a 10-bed facility to a 41-bed nursing home offering a full range of care services including palliation, frail aged and dementia. A further extension is planned to bring the total to 60 beds. The complex has been renamed Peter Sinclair Gardens, in honour of Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, a former

Governor of NSW, who officiated at the opening ceremony.

RSL LifeCare now provides care and service to more than 5000 people in residential and community care, and retirement living, throughout NSW.

Scholarships and Awards

NSW Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarships

With the active support and participation of the NSW State Branch, the NSW Education Department awards 20 scholarships each year to students enrolled in both government and non-government schools for pilgrimages to battlefields including Gallipoli, Western Front, Korea, Vietnam and other sites in Asia. The scholarships ensure that the ANZAC story remains a living part of Australian history by encouraging the students to study military history and to return to share their knowledge and experiences with friends and families.



Students and teachers try on WWI uniforms at Passchendaele during their visit to the Western Front as part of the Premier's ANZAC Scholars' scheme

During 2012 one group of students visited the WWI battlefields of the Western Front, attending ANZAC Day services at Polygon Wood, the Menin Gate and the Australian cemetery at Ploegsteert. The second group studied the history and battlefields of the Vietnam War, visiting Ho Chi Minh City, the Cu Chi tunnels, Long Tan, Vung Tau, Nue Dat, Da Nang and Hanoi. Each group was accompanied by two RSL State Councillors and advisors from the Departments of Education and Veterans' Affairs.

Sir Colin Hines Scholarship

These scholarships assist children of Vietnam veterans with their tertiary education. In 2012 five scholarships were awarded, each of \$1200 and a certificate. Those receiving the scholarships were Nattamon Tantaphrueska, Suzanne Duncan, Kasmir Adie, Kimberley Cox and Freya Cross.

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. In 2012 scholarships were

awarded to Gordon William Smith, Christopher John Varrall, and Reegan Lee Piper.

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 on a military subject, and a personal interview. Winners are awarded a berth on the Training Ship "Young Endeavour." Several previous winners have gone on to join the Regular Forces. The 2012 winners were CDTSgt Andrew MacGregor (Army Cadets), CDTLS Jake Moir (Navy Cadets) and CUO Phoenix Richards (Air Force Cadets).

RSL ANZAC Art Awards

The NSW State Branch developed the ANZAC Art Project in the 1970s to encourage students to research, learn and appreciate the historical and cultural significance of our military history. In 2012 a colouring competition was open to primary school students and a painting competition for secondary students. A special award and medal commemorated the commitment of the late Geoffrey Falkenmire, the former president of the Teachers sub-Branch. The 40 highest scoring entries from 2012 will be exhibited in Sydney during Poppy Week in early November 2013 as a permanent ANZAC Art Collection. Winners in 2012 were Mia Windred (Year 1-2, Sandy Beach PS), Alyssa Palmer (Year 3-4, Ramsgate PS), Nicole Goussis (Year 5-6, St Gabriels PS Bexley), Kaluumn Lee Maple (Year 7-8, Home School, Mullion Creek), Gabrielle Picard (Year 9-10, Manly Selective school), and Saraa Moussa (Year 11-12, Chester Hill High School). The Premier's Prize, including a trek on the Kokoda Track, was awarded to Saraa Moussa, and the Falkenmire Award to Gabrielle Picard.

ANZAC of the Year

Two residents of NSW were among the five recipients of the 2012 ANZAC of the Year Awards, announced by National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan. The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made annually to recognise the efforts and achievements of those who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

The NSW recipients were:

- **Anthony Toussaint**, in recognition of his years of dedicated and committed service to the community of Merimbula and wider community, particularly through the Pambula Lions Club, the Merimbula RSL sub-Branch and Club, the Robin Hood Service Club, and the Bega Valley Meals on Wheels Plus. Tony Toussaint was drafted into the Army for service in Vietnam in 1968 and medically evacuated home 10 months later. Within the RSL, Tony has served on the Monaro and South Coast District Council and from 2001 as State Councillor for NSW Southern Country.
- **Marie Hurley** OAM, in recognition of her many years of tireless service to the community, particularly through the Nepean Hospital, Neighbourhood Watch and St Finbar's Church.

Victorian Branch Report

2012 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 introduced new commercial arrangements in 2012 and increased staff and services to meet a new regulatory environment. The Branch Corporate Plan has also been recast to cover 2012-2020 as a result of input from the 2011 Future of the League Forum. The Plan will guide our future planning to meet long term demographic, commercial and service delivery challenges.

Veterans and Dependant Support Services

Jeff Jackson and his team of professional advocates who assist veterans and dependants throughout the State with DVA related claims and entitlements continue to do great work. 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. We are looking forward to 2013 as a year in which we will begin the generational renewal of our advocate team to deliver an effective service to Veterans in future decades. One area of concern in 2012 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 in 2012 the Veteran Centre Project has been reviewed in order to remain viable and effective in a reduced BEST grant environment, in conjunction with the support of the Veteran Centre management committees.

The introduction of e-learning modules for MRCA has enabled 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 state and national representative bodies on aged care and wellness that the RSL has a seat at. In 2012 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 and Linda Yemm, Erica D'lasselle and Terri Carr all do a wonderful job as part of Wendy's team.

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 and 2012 was another very successful year in terms of fundraising and positive public relations for the RSL. Peter Smith continued to effectively promote our Appeals through Channel 9 and other commercial partners in 2012. Using commercial partners to supplement our older veterans in CBD token|poppy sales was expanded 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 2012 and we will further develop the synergies between marketing our Appeals and also promoting the League's work more broadly.



Membership

The membership focus for 2012 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 boosting member numbers and sustaining the lifeblood of volunteers for appeals work, together with the links between marketing our appeal work and member 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 introduction of a new data base was the major challenge for Sharen, Geraldine and Roxanne at the end of 2012 and improving accessibility for the smaller traditional sub-branches will be a major focus as we enter 2013. Also the new membership database introduction complements our new commercial developments, building on existing reciprocal rights for all members with loyalty programs that will enhance

value to all members in enjoying the services and hospitality in the Licensed Sub-Branch network.

Sadly, 2012 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 2012, membership of the Victorian Branch stood at:

Service Members	28,356
Life Members/Life Subscribers	1,585
Hon Life Members	15
Affiliates	<u>29,920</u>
Total	59,876

Property Commercial and Financial Affairs

There have been significant changes this year in farewelling some long serving staff, succession planning and bringing new staff onboard to provide a wider range of services and skills to the sub-branch network. Through this period the continuity and experience of the CFO, Mark Sherlock has ensured that the financial and property affairs of the Branch remain well managed through difficult economic conditions and the transition period of August 2012 in terms of our contracted gaming arrangements. While Dennis Everitt and Rob Gay both retired at the end of 2012 after many years of great work in the Quality Assurance and Accounting areas respectively, we brought on board David Ridley, who has great experience in the gaming industry and strong financial analysis skills. Luke Gilholme has increased his responsibilities as Manager of Corporate and Government Relations. Luke's achievement in completing his accountancy qualifications will also add to the quality of analysis and support Luke already provides to the Licensed Sub-Branch network.

Bryan Arendse continues to oversight the Grants and Patriotic Funds areas very effectively and Bernard Churchill does the same in the Property area. During 2012 we brought on two young graduates, Patricia Bohner and Felecia Muir, to understudy and support both those gentlemen as part of our longer term succession planning. Likewise, Tony Ruddell has picked up the reins in the Quality Assurance area reflecting his increasing knowledge of the network.

By the end of 2012 the transition period of August 2012 to a new gaming provider TGS, a new membership data base and accompanying loyalty programme was settling down under the experienced stewardship of Brian Cairns as the Manager of Commercial Operations. A key part of Brian's new expanded team are Clint Brewster and Ricky Cole who as Business Development Managers conduct a rolling programme of visits to the Licensed Sub-Branch network to support and assist them in bedding in the 2012 changes and dealing with operational, staffing and financial issues as they arise. Their perspective and committed attention to their respective regions has been very well received and

appreciated by both Committees and Managers of the Licensed Sub-Branch network.

While both Mark Johnson and John Mackay departed the RSL scene during 2012 they both made a significant contribution to getting to the network to the strong and cohesive position we are at in the commercial space at the end of 2012. The Commercial Business Committee under the chairmanship of Ian Caines, an experienced Sub-Branch President and State Executive member is also settling down into its role as providing expert advice to the State Executive on the commercial direction of the Branch, and supporting the network with a range of services and training, such as the highly successful Franklin Scholar Management Diploma for our future Sub-Branch manager group.

We also welcomed Pauline Murtagh during 2012 as our Marketing and Communications Manager, to give a professional edge to our new member loyalty program and other commercial initiatives, as well as providing generic promotion of the RSL's good work in the veteran space and wider community throughout Victoria.

Commemorative Activities

– ANZAC and Remembrance Day

ANZAC Day 2012 continued the trend of recent years with strong and growing attendances at the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and several major suburban and regional centres. Preceding ANZAC Day, the Reception at ANZAC House and the Church Service at St Patrick's Cathedral were both well supported and successful activities. Indeed the Shrine Service, despite the driving rain and cold, was estimated at between 35,000 to 40,000 and strong attendances also supported the Melbourne 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.



The AFL's Essendon vs Collingwood ANZAC Day game was again a sell out crowd of almost 100,000, with the State President presenting the winning trophy to Collingwood in front of a massive crowd. A respectful tribute to our war dead and strong crowd support to the Veteran motorcade again characterised the lead up to the game at the MCG. The historical focus this year was on the 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign

which was well represented by the veterans 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 Colonel Jason Blain, an Afghanistan Veteran, as the Guest Speaker, who spoke movingly on the contemporary relevance of Remembrance Day. Mal Carson, our convenor did his normal splendid job with the arrangements and the day was very well supported by the 680 community. The Official Commemorative Service at the Shrine on 11th 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. Mention should also be made of Julie Lindsay, who normally does a great job with her cheery and helpful manner on the reception desk, but is currently on maternity leave. We hope to see her back in 2013!

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-branches 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, and to support the purchase of a Community/Welfare Bus for Heidelberg Repatriation Ward 17 are wonderful gestures and a real indication of the ongoing relevance and importance of our Auxiliaries in the RSL's mission.

State Conference 2012

The State Conference was held on 4th 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 the Chief of Army Lt General David Morrison who gave a stimulating and thought provoking address on recent challenges for the Army and Defence and he filled all

present with optimism on how the serving people of today's ADF will be the strength of the RSL in the future given League support for them.

There was the usual strong field of deserving individuals and sub-branches who 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. Important remits were passed on changes to membership structure fees 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 Officer election results were announced, with the State President, Senior Vice and Vice President positions, and the Honorary Treasurer position continuing unchanged for 2012/2013 but several new State Executive members were also announced who will bring new ideas and talent to the "Board of Directors".

Community Engagement

Two great examples of our delivery of RSL community objectives during the year remain 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 2012 were:

Navy	Cassandra Stewart
Army	Leslie Huang
Air Force	Tiffany Chapman

with the Young Endeavour prize winner being Tiffany Chapman.

This year 125 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 now chaired by Lee Webb. However the day to day co-ordination of this activity fell chiefly on Elizabeth Mansfield and she did a wonderful job in this role.

The Victorian Branch looks forward to 2013 with confidence, having progressed some important strategic decisions about our future in a cohesive and

League minded way from our 2011 Future of the League Forum, 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 reflected professionalism and an unstinting commitment to the League and its objectives in 2012 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 Australia Branch Report

RSL Villas and RSL Care SA

In 2012 the RSL Villas celebrated 15 years of continuous outstanding, dedicated aged care. The State Minister for Aged Care; Mr Mark Butler MP presided over the celebration, which highlighted past achievements and a new direction to the future. Decisions taken have brought about a new administrative direction with the foundation of RSL Care SA. The transition from James Brown Memorial Trust to RSL Care SA was a seamless consolidation of RSL Villas, Angle Park and The War Veterans' Home, Myrtle Bank, as a bonded identity led by a board of executives. RSL Villas presents the same identity to residents and the public throughout the years as the needs of veterans in care, is always greater than the needs of the Villas and continuous improvement is constantly implemented. With the acquisition of adjoining properties to the Villas, they now have the opportunity to provide additional veterans care.



Emerging Leaders Group

The RSL in general struggles to maintain its relevance in the current serving community and thus attract younger members. In order to begin the process of addressing these issues the RSL-SA has been concentrating on the development of a new unit to be known as the Emerging Leaders Group.

The Emerging Leaders Group will provide a forum for informed discussion on the future development of the RSL image and provided a basis from which the future leaders of the RSL can stem. They provide the co-ordination point for the implementation of the new ideas, future leadership and feedback to respective members

The Group will comprise of current serving ADF members, current sub-branch leaders and community youth who have shown outstanding leadership qualities. Group membership will provide:

- Experience and knowledge of their respective areas;
- Access to networks,
- Capacity to influence and disseminate information, and;
- Ability to support new membership initiatives.

Branding



Whilst it is clear that the RSL is an iconic institution with high public awareness the immense good work being done for all veterans and current ADF members and their families is not well understood by the general public, nor is that clearly promoted at this time. To address this the RSL-SA decided in 2012 to work with a highly respected Adelaide advertising to develop a strategy of enhancing the public understanding of our good work and improving membership and awareness within the current serving generation.

Membership

In conjunction with the re-branding campaign the RSL-SA is working with sub-branches to launch a campaign, which we have titled 'Welcome to the RSL'. This will help and encourage sub-branches to ensure that each and every interaction with a customer or potential customer is a positive one which reflects well on the RSL. We are offering an incentive scheme to encourage Service Members to take the three year renewal option and also wrote to all affiliates encouraging them to renew their membership at their sub-branch and outlined the benefits of affiliation.

New President

The Annual Sub-Branch Conference in July 2012 saw the changing in the guard here in South Australia, long term State President Jock Statton stepped down and Brigadier Tim Hanna took the reins. As the State President of RSL-SA, Jock, successfully lobbied the State Government in SA to increase its assistance to veterans support, he has worked tirelessly to change and modernise the image of the RSL and streamline its management structure. His legacy will be felt for many years to come.



Jock Statton OAM with former Governor of South Australia, Mrs Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE

Brigadier Hanna joined the Regular Army in 1979 after which he saw operational service in the first Gulf War. In 1999 Tim left the Regular Army to peruse a civilian career here in SA but maintained his links via the Reserve which saw him take up the mantle as the



Commander 9 Brigade in 2006. Tim was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2009 Australia Day Honours. Tim was elected to the State Board in July 2011 and assumed the position of State President of the Returned and Services League in South Australia in July 2012.

New Staff and Developments

2012 was a new addition to the staff in SA, Mrs Julia Langrehr joined the team as the Project Development Officer. Her duties include the management of new developments, assisting sub-branches with governance issues and preparing template business plans for different sub-branch joint ventures.

Most of 2012 saw her time taken up with the Alice Springs Sub-Branch. Early in 2012 the Sub Branch indicated they were in some financial difficulty, as such the State Board resolved to assist the Sub-Branch financially and State Branch has taken over the management of the Sub-Branch. Other sub-branches have indicated that they are struggling either financially or governance wise and State Branch is formulating a plan to be more proactive in assisting our sub-branches.

Coin of Remembrance

In 2012 the RSL in conjunction with the Royal Australian Mint issued a \$2 Remembrance Poppy coin. This was the first coloured coin issued in Australia for circulation and is obtainable exclusively from the RSL. The \$2 coin with a Certificate of Donation was available for a \$10 donation from the RSL-SA State Branch and participating RSL sub-branches. Although there were significant distribution issues with the coin it was very well received within the RSL and wider community.



Western Australia Branch Report



Graham Edwards AM
State President

RSLWA continues to retain its status as a pre-eminent ex-service organisation in Western Australia and serves its membership through its network of 131 sub-branches spread throughout the State. It takes pride in its achievements that involve not only its members but also extended family, community and other ex-service organisations. Our commitment to the membership and community is to ensure sacrifices made in the past by our ex-servicemen and women are not forgotten as we embrace life in an ever-changing society.

In 2016 the RSL will reach a significant milestone in its history. It will, in that year, mark our own centenary. Also, in the lead up to that event many commemorative activities related to the Centenary of ANZAC are planned to take place throughout the country beginning in Albany with a re-enactment of the departure of the fleet transporting men, horses and equipment of the First Australian Imperial Force to the battlefields of the First World War. Details of activities associated with that event will be released shortly.

It is obvious that with the passing of our Second World War veterans, RSL membership would be in decline. While this may be so, it is pleasing to note the number of younger generation of servicemen and women joining the League and as such membership decline has not had the impact that was predicted. The benefits available from League Membership provides a security blanket to service personnel particularly in the areas of pensions, advocacy and welfare where veterans, both young and old, are able to access their entitlements through experienced and well trained advocates. However, a serious challenge for the RSL is to remain relevant to our younger generations of ADF members.

In the year under review, we have experienced much uncertainty, occasioned by a flawed election process for office bearers. This has been addressed and rectified with the election of the new State Executive which is currently revising its operating procedures.

It is in full compliance with the current State Constitution and By Laws as well as the provisions of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987*. Structures within the State Executive and Board of Directors are being revisited and tasks and new portfolios assigned. In the light of Commonwealth and State Government Legislation aimed at the Not-For-Profit Sector, it is anticipated that further change to our operating protocols may have to be considered.

At sub-branch level, some impact on operating procedures may eventuate and planning needs to begin to embrace any changes required. The State Branch will monitor legislative requirements and provide

assistance to sub-branches to ensure compliance standards are achieved.

Our sub-branch network is extensive and covers the State from Wyndham in the north, to Albany in the south, and east into the Goldfields. We represent the mining area, pastoral country, agricultural regions as well as having a profile in all major towns and cities. Our larger sub-branches are metropolitan based, some with several hundred members; whereas rural areas, in some cases, have fewer than ten members. They all however, show the RSL Flag in their local communities which is important in our desire to have the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women recognised – and remembered.

The local sub-branch, in many instances is a focal point for many community activities, particularly ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, where RSLs host Commemorative Services. It is worthy of note that such services are always well supported.

It is always appropriate to recognise the support Lotterywest provides to the RSL and importantly to ANZAC Day Commemorative Services throughout Western Australia. Since their financial support has been available the quality of ANZAC Day Commemorative Services throughout Western Australia has continued to maintain a level that truly honours our serving men and women and most importantly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Following divestment of the RSL's Retirement and Aged Care Facilities regular payments are being received and the money invested as part of a Future's Fund. A strategy using a specialist group to manage the Fund has been established and will operate within a legal framework to preserve the capital and accrued interest. The expectation is that the State will be better placed to serve the membership and the veteran community for the foreseeable future.

Sub-branch financial affairs have been identified as an area where greater accountability is required. Some sub-branches were required to be placed under State Branch Administration while financial management protocols were refocused and restructured to demonstrate accountability to their membership. As a way ahead State Branch is forming an outreach group that will work with sub-branches to ensure there is compliance with the Rules of the organisation and regular reporting to their membership.

In the corporate environment RSLWA is held in high regard. Regular meetings take place with our corporate partners who show keen interest in our affairs. Major partners offer sponsorship of our programs, particularly those involving youth activities and are always willing to engage in promotional activities that promote veteran affairs. We are also indebted to our corporate partners for professional advice offered concerning financial and civic oriented projects.

Our Strategic and Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015 “The ANZAC Centenary and Beyond: Building a Better Future for those whom we Serve” has been prepared as a discussion and operational document. It is a blueprint for the operations of the RSLWA up until 2015 and is compliant with both National and State Constitutions. The focus of the Plan is on our core business of veterans’ welfare and support of deserving veterans seeking access to entitlements and services. It is a ‘live’ document. The Plan is about working for the members benefit first and foremost, as well as working to ensure that the name and reputation of the RSL is upheld in years to come.

We have always zealously guarded our good public image by encouraging all our members to present the League as a caring organisation that takes the welfare of veterans and the future security and development of the country seriously. We will continue to represent the League in this manner.

Our on-going support for Service Cadets is a valued connection with youth. Our Youth Affairs team oversees our Cadet of the Year Program and the Annual Cadet Efficiency Trophy. In association with sponsors, valued trophies and a financial consideration to the winning groups is a great motivation to spark keen competition. We can confirm that there is a strong connection between those who win our Awards and enlistment in the Australian Defence Forces.

One of the most exciting undertakings by the State Branch in recent times is ‘The Living History’ research project that is examining and documenting the history of the RSL in Western Australia. With the Centenary of the League but a few years away it is fortunate that through a Lotterywest grant we have been able to engage a full time Archivist and Records Officer to document almost a century of our history as well as that of our sub-branches. Already material researched is on our website and in such a short time has attracted considerable interest.

Our representation and regular attendance at National Committee Meetings provides a valuable connection into the collective negotiations RSL National Headquarters has with government on a range of issues that affect veterans’ welfare. The approach is always highly professional and permits the League to make its point at the highest level. Invariably we are able to achieve acceptable results, but there are times when ‘miracles take a little longer’ to eventuate.

It must be recognised that volunteers are the backbone of ex-service organisations and the RSL enjoys unqualified support in this regard. Our band of supporters and staff at State and sub-branches give generously of their time and expertise to ensure the members, veterans and community are well served. The administration, membership and ANZAC Club staff as well as heads of pensions, advocacy and welfare sections provide a highly professional service to veterans and the public as do the many volunteers at the sub-branches scattered throughout the State. Their service is the strength of RSLWA. However the heart and soul of the RSL is found in our sub-branches

where the day to day traditions of mateship, care and support are fundamental to the continuing ethic of the sub-branches and the wellbeing of our rank and file membership.

DVA

Of course we do not work in a vacuum. Our relationship with DVA is imperative for the level of assistance we can give to our members and the broader ex-service community. We also rely heavily on DVA for support in many Commemorative events and the partnership we enjoy with them is close and this is the way it should be.

Other Ex-Service Organisations

RSLWA enjoys good relationships with other ex-service organisations and we respect and support the tremendous work they do in support of their members. However, we must work to not only maintain the strong relationships we have but also recognise that we should not take other ESOs for granted and in some instances we have much work to do to bring these relationships closer, work harder to maintain them and to improve them and in some instances repair them. We can only do this in partnership and this will be a continuing priority in the year and years ahead.

On assuming the Presidency in December 2012, I claimed a mandate to ensure that our activities are fully accountable, transparent, and financially prudent and that we ensure that we operate with the highest possible standards of governance, integrity and credibility.

We are approaching a once in a hundred year opportunity to commemorate our ANZACs. This is not just an honour; it is a fundamental, core responsibility and duty of the RSL. We are heavily involved with the Centenary of ANZAC including the departure of the Fleet and the building of the Albany ANZAC Centre; I can assure you that all parties are insistent on a world class Centre. I believe the RSL must also continue to insist on a strong educational and interpretive focus at the Centre all of which needs to be in place by 1 November 2014.

While Albany will have a huge local, national and international focus it is not the only commemorative project of importance in WA. Hence, the need to involve our branches, local government, local communities and service clubs who support the RSL, particularly in country areas, in our Centenary of ANZAC commemorations. We are entering a challenging but exciting time as we plan for and approach the Centenary of ANZAC.

We owe it to current veterans and serving members of the ADF to secure the future during this time so that we meet our ongoing responsibilities to them and to the legacy of RSLWA.

Welfare

Another busy year assisting veterans, members and their dependants in maintaining their quality of life and dignity by offering practical, social and financial assistance in times of crisis. This can be challenging and would be impossible to achieve without the assistance of a few hard working Welfare volunteers, hospital visitors and of course the Sub-Branch Welfare Officers.

With the high cost of utilities, rents and rising food prices there has been an increase in the number of members and their dependents seeking assistance from RSL Welfare and the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Trust (WAASSARFT). The Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund continues to assist veterans, members and their dependents with the provision of funds for essential items that are beyond their budget, such as replacement white goods, urgent car repairs, mobility aids, relocation costs and other larger expenses. The Trust Fund also provides a monthly grant to 32 veterans, members or their dependents experiencing ongoing hardship. In the past year the Trust Fund also assisted with funeral costs where the family was in severe financial hardship. The Trust at present supports four ex-service members in WA Prisons with official visits and an ongoing monthly grant. Additional financial aid was also provided to one of the members to complete study while incarcerated. It is hoped this will improve his chances of obtaining employment upon release.

Pensions and Advocacy

The Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare Section relocated from 8 Irwin Street Perth (opposite ANZAC House) in November 2012.

A more recent service has been introduced by DVA called the On Base Advisory Service (OBAS). A small group of DVA staff attend the locations of Pearce Air Force Base, Leeuwin Barracks, Stirling Naval Base and Campbell Barracks in rotation on various days. A new version of a V Pad, a computer program, has been introduced by DVA and BEST to capture data from all interviews, claims lodged and assistance given by Advocates Welfare and Pension Officers. The activity report for BEST Grants reflects the individual breakdown of all the components provided by the Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare group. In excess of 3,250 enquiries requiring interviews or visits have been fielded by Pension Officers, Advocates and the Welfare Section with a total in excess of 9,000 hours contributed for that purpose within the last twelve months. Additionally Pension Officers and Advocates have contributed a further 1,093 hours in the last twelve months to the welfare needs of veterans or their dependents.

Whilst BEST has been given the individual breakdown of the work we have completed, the Pensions/Advocacy Section have received or generated in the region of 5,625 telephone contacts, processed 665 primary claims and attended to another 304 matters involving

appeals, reviews and service pensions in the last financial year. Our claims are well received by DVA and are successful to a very high percentage. In addition to the inquiries that result from our attendance at the resettlement seminars, we are now processing claims from currently serving SASR members. Their organisation has reported a very satisfied client group within their service who have accessed our organisation in regard to information and claims. Due to the level of training and mentoring we provide our staff, we have the ability at RSLWA HQ to process claims and assist veterans and members across all four Acts, (VEA, SRCA, MCRS and MRCA) in addition to other supplementary claims for ancillary benefits.

Finance

The new State Accountant and State Treasurer have both settled into their roles. It is abundantly clear that the financial management of the Branch and the sub-branches must dramatically improve if the RSL wishes to maintain and build upon its iconic status within Western Australia. This is entirely consistent with the professional standards that we are expected to uphold as serving and former members of our armed services. These changes will not only be required as a matter of good governance but will be required by law. This is because changes in Commonwealth legislation that are designed to improve the financial management of organisations in the Not-For-Profit Sector within which the RSL sits.

The overseeing function for the Not-For-Profit Sector will be vested in the newly created Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission ("ACNC"). If the RSL is to retain its tax exempt status we need to improve our financial management, regulatory compliance, governance and accountability. These changes will not be easy but they are necessary. As a state branch we need them so that as a League we remain agile and adaptable, responsive and ready to support our membership both now and into the future. With greater dialogue and transparency, our future looks brighter.

RSL WA ANZAC Club & ANZAC House Facility

Throughout the year, the Club has continued to promote the Meeting and Conferencing facilities of ANZAC Club to both corporate entities and Government instrumentalities to assist with their conference needs. Attracting external clients in this way benefits the Club, as these events are hosted at "Commercial Rates" – and this assists the Club to provide services to members at very competitive prices – at the same time helping to contain our operating costs. While this has on occasion meant that some traditional users of the Club are competing with commercial clients for meeting or event space, this is normally resolved with compromise and goodwill.

ANZAC Club does not exist in a vacuum. It must operate within the overall environment of the wider hospitality industry. The club cannot isolate itself from the challenges that confront this industry in Perth. A significant challenge is attracting the right people to

work with us – suitably qualified, experienced people who have the right disposition are rare. Yet the ANZAC Club is blessed with a team of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals. The range of skills we have in house collectively in this team allows the Club to provide the necessary services to members – and also allows the club to actively compete with outside commercial organisations in providing opportunities for the Club.

ANZAC Club continues its association with the CLUBS WA umbrella organisation. ANZAC Club also enjoys advocacy and advice in matters such as industrial relations, occupational health and safety, industry trends and their advice on liquor licensing matters and compliance with same is particularly valued. Clubs WA continues to be a positive contributor to ANZAC Club.

While we face many challenges ahead, there is a healthy future for ANZAC Club. We enjoy a dedicated and enthusiastic team, and we have a very good product to offer the membership. Finally - it is worthwhile noting, the Club belongs to all the membership and its continuing existence is contingent upon the membership using the facility.

Youth Affairs

The annual RSL "Spirit of ANZAC" Award testing took place for 2011-2012 at the City Of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch on Saturday 5 November 2011. The cadets present on the day were judged on their dress and bearing, results from testing on written and practical first aid tests, general knowledge and a five minute speech on a military subject of their choice.

The cadets selected were Cpl Marco Spadaccini from 515 ACU, WO2 Jordon Hughes from 501 ACU, PO Rhiannon Thompson from TS Marmion and LSMN Elizabeth Kennon from TS Marmion.



Back Row: Cdt Cpl Marco Spadacinni, Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, Cdt WO2 Jordan Hughes; Front Row: Cdt Recruit Reid Gunter, Cdt SMN Campbell Christie, Cdt LS Elizabeth Kennon, Cdt Cpl Amanda Ward

The Presentation Evening was held on Friday 20 January 2012 in conjunction with the RSL Australia Day Awards and the winners of the RSL "Spirit of ANZAC" Award were announced. Much to the delight of all present, Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith was there to receive honorary life membership of the RSL. The cadets were

openly delighted to see Ben and he spent a lot of time speaking to them.

The cadets were presented with a Certificate of Participation and a package containing an RSL polo shirt and cap donated by Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall, CEO of Hollywood Private Hospital and a major sponsor of the Cadet Program.

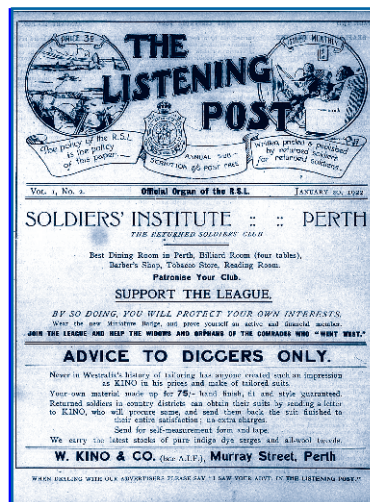
The Award was a voyage on the Sail Training Ship Leeuwin, which took place from the 26 February - 3 March 2012. Reports from the cadets indicated how much they enjoyed the experience.

The Cadet Efficiency Trophy is open to all Cadet Service Units in WA and is jointly sponsored by the RSL and the Australian Defence Credit Union. The Award is for the most efficient Cadet Unit as judged by Cadet Headquarters from set criteria. The Award carries a cash prize of \$1,000.00, a Perpetual Shield and an annual Trophy Plaque. The 2012 winners were:

- TS Vancouver (Albany);
- 53 ACU (Wanneroo); and
- 712 SQN South Guildford

RSL Living History Project

The scheduled release of past editions of The Listening Post commenced with the issues from the 1920s and 1930s on 3rd August 2012. Subsequent issues are being released two decades every second month to coincide with the current Listening Post publication dates. The issues will be released online as part of the RSL Living History Project and will provide an important resource for researchers and members of the RSL.



The Exhibition at the State Library is scheduled for April 2013 through to June, pending funding approval. We will be taking the opportunity to release the online exhibition at the same time. We are fortunate to have the support of the State Library in WA in allowing us to use the exhibition space on the ground floor and providing us with their help and guidance in organising the exhibition.

Sub-branch visits were completed by the end of 2012. Thank you to all who have helped this project with information, photographs and film on the RSL.

Membership

State Branch membership for the year ended 31/12/12 stood at 9,567. This was comprised of 8,083 Service Members and 1,484 Affiliates. The annual decline for 2012 was 436, however upon analysis year end statistics indicate only 290 financial deaths offset by 380 new members. Affiliate renewals were down by 100. As in previous years the decline would again presumably be due to non-renewal and age. Only a small number of cancellations were received. Payment online is proving to be popular. Problems were encountered in the early stages but have now been rectified.

Electronic funds transfer has been the preferred electronic means of payment, however there are still problems, the major one being not enough information to be able to identify the member.

Early 2012 has seen a major upgrade of the membership database. Testing and fine tuning will be done over the coming months. It is indeed an exciting time with provision for sub-branches in the near future to be able to go online and access their reports.

State Branch

The election process for State Executive is now complete and current appointments will last for the next three-year period. May I take this opportunity to thank all who have served on State Executive and their various sub committees over the past three years and welcome all to the challenges for the RSL in Western Australia as we fast approach the planning activities for the Centenary of ANZAC.

Acknowledgements

To the State Executive and Trustees, thanks are expressed for the commitment made to RSLWA and the ongoing loyalty to the State Branch. The task of serving on committees and representing the membership is demanding but also rewarding.

In particular our country representatives must overcome the tyranny of distance of this vast State in keeping our country sub-branches in touch. The reports that they furnish provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country sub-branches.

Finally, the Branch acknowledges the support given to RSLWA by our Patron, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AO CVO QC as Governor of Western Australia and Mrs McCusker.

We also again acknowledge and show strong appreciation of our continuing sponsors without whom much of the excellent work RSLWA does would simply not be possible.

Conclusion

I am slowly and methodically coming to grips with the various issues confronting the RSL. I will seek to provide stronger representation at the national level and to ensure our voice is heard on the national stage.

I also seek change in how we conduct our business within the State Branch and how we consult, involve and inform our branches and members of our State Executive deliberations and decisions. I want our activities to be fully accountable, transparent and financially prudent and ensure that we operate to the highest possible standards of governance, integrity and credibility.

Collectively RSLWA does an immense amount of volunteer work in the ex-service and broader community. We are made up of men and women of all walks of life, from different eras, wars and conflicts and while we reflect the Australian community as a whole we also fulfil, on Australia's behalf, a tremendous role in the commemoration of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice; and we do that well.

Indeed our members have much to be proud of and we should address the future with confidence and a strong unity of purpose.

Tasmania Branch Report

State Branch

We have of course had a very busy year at the State Branch. We are progressing with our RSL (Tasmania) Futures Committee, a direct result of a State Congress 2012 motion, and the Terms of Reference have been drafted.



The State Branch is still financially assisting many Sub Branches, most of which now have their heads above water and are moving forward in a satisfactory financial position. Unfortunately the year saw the closure of the Strahan Sub Branch on Tasmania's West Coast, due to lack of numbers. The veterans and members in the Strahan area will be looked after by our Sub Branches in either Queenstown or Zeehan.

With effect from January 2013 we will have a new State Executive structure and three Divisions only. The Eastern Division will no longer exist and the Sub Branches previously in Eastern Division will be absorbed into either the Southern Division or the Northern Division. There will be three Divisional Vice President positions which members in the respective Divisions can nominate to fill. With only three paid staff and a handful of dedicated volunteers at the State Branch, we must rely on the members of our State Executive to accept some portfolio's and undertake some tasks in order that we remain across all facets of our RSL Objects.

State Congress 2012

The 97th Annual State Congress was hosted by the Ulverstone RSL Sub Branch and was held on the 11th /12th May 2012 at the Ulverstone Civic Centre, Ulverstone. The Hon Scott Bacon MP, State Minister for Veterans' Affairs officially opened Congress.

Other dignitaries and official guests included Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), RSL National President, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alderman Jan Bonde, Mayor of the Central Coast, Mr Ian Campbell, Secretary - Department of Veterans' Affairs and Ms Jan Hyde, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs – Tasmania.

RSL official guests included Mr Don Rowe OAM, Deputy National President and State President – RSL NSW, Mr Terry Meehan, State President – RSL Queensland, Mr Jock Statton OAM, State President – RSL South Australia, Mr Chris Perrin JP, CEO – RSL NSW, Mr Chris McHugh csc, CEO – RSL Queensland, and Mr Mike Annett csc, CEO – RSL Victoria.

There were 37 Sub Branches represented with 73 delegates. There were 15 motions debated, with 10 carried, 4 lost and one withdrawn. The successful

motions will now be considered at the National Congress to be held in Sydney in September.

The following League Awards were presented:

Life Membership

Mr Stephen Dobson	Dunalley
Mr Peter Bruce OAM	South Arm
Mrs Marie Kays OAM	Lenah Valley
Mr Archie Alomes	Sorell
Mr Prevost Mills	Fingal (presented locally)
Mr Graham Pedder	Launceston (presented locally)

State Certificate of Appreciation

Mr Stephen Cocker OAM
Miss Carol Batten

The Congress Dinner was held at the Ulverstone Rowing Club. We pass on our congratulations to the kitchen staff and volunteers for a superb meal and service. We also wish to sincerely thank all the junior rowers who provided outstanding table service during the evening.



At the close of Congress former State President Bill Kaine MBE stood down after a three year term in office. Bill was presented with a framed Sydney Swans jumper signed by the 2012 team and his wife, Margaret was presented with a sheath of flowers as a thank you

from the State Branch team.

Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize Winners

Six Tasmanian students will visit significant war sites in France and Belgium next year after winning the 2012 Frank MacDonald MM Memorial Prize. On the 12th October the Minister for Education and Skills, the Hon Nick McKim MP, announced the winners of the prize which honours Tasmanian's last World War 1 veteran, Frank MacDonald MM who died in 2003 at the age of 107. The group will tour the battlefields of the Western Front during the period 20th April – 1st May 2013. They will be accompanied by RSL representative Bruce Scott OAM, President Scottsdale RSL Sub Branch, Government Representative, Ruth Forrest MLC, teachers Ian Cordwell from New Town High School and Julie Bird from Oglivie High School, and tour managers Anthony King and Natalie Cooling from DPAC.

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. The 2012 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.”

The 2012 Frank MacDonald Memorial Prize winners are:

Shaye Davies	Launceston Church Grammar School
Jarrah Day	Taroona High School
Luke Dimsey	Clarence High School
Alexandra Fuller	Penguin High School
Dean Mainwaring	Ulverstone High School
Joseph Short	Rose Bay High School



Membership

Service membership has increased marginally in 2012 and there has been a marked increase in Affiliate membership throughout the year. The Social members are continuing to be encouraged to change their membership status to Affiliate and the present indication is that Affiliate membership in Tasmania will continue to grow steadily. In October 2012 RSL Tasmania embarked on a membership drive with the State Emergency Services, including Tasmania Police, Fire and Ambulance Services and the SES. The State Emergency Services have responded very favorably. We see this as a positive step towards maintaining or increasing membership particularly in our smaller country Sub Branches.



RSL Tasmania and State Emergency Services representatives

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day attendances at both Dawn Services and Main Services across Tasmania again showed a big increase in numbers, particularly children and youth.

The new Hobart ANZAC Day Commemorations Committee, chaired by Colonel Michael Romalis, and ably assisted by Parade Marshal Peter Hind ensured that the Hobart ANZAC Day Parade was none other than a very professional event. The Hobart Dawn Service was again organized by the Greater Hobart RSL Sub Branch under the leadership of its President, Mr Steve Cocker. The 2012 Dawn Service attracted the largest audience for many years. ANZAC Day services were held in every town in Tasmania where an RSL Sub Branch is located.

70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein

In Hobart a small contingent of our remaining veterans of the Battle of El Alamein and their families gathered for a commemorative service on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. The service was organized by Mr John Wise and the Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mr Reg Watson. The service was followed by a luncheon at Parliament House provided by the RSL Tasmania State Branch and hosted by the Hon Scott Bacon MP, State Minister for Veterans' Affairs.



Australian Capital Territory Branch Report



John King
State President

Branch

The ACT Branch continues to reside in offices provided by the Sir Leslie Morshead Home for Veterans and Aged Persons. The offices provide a unique opportunity for Branch to service veteran needs being on common ground. All branch administrative activities are conducted at the Home except the Branch Council meetings which are held at the Ainslie Football Club. The Branch would like to express appreciation to the Board of the club for making the venue available without charge.

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 Sir Leslie Morshead Home for Veterans and Aged Persons in January 2012.



Ray Williams (Tuggeranong), John King, Tony Ablong (City of Canberra) and Ross Thomas (Woden Valley)

Overseas Sub-Branches

Overseas sub-branches of the RSL continue to be managed by the ACT Branch. Collectively 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 an 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.

This year the Department of Veterans Affairs have offered to support the Port Moresby Sub-Branch in 2013 with the arrangements and administrative support with their local ANZAC Day celebrations. It transpires that the PNG ceremony is the third largest ceremony after Gallipoli and Villiers-Bretonneux.

The Branch also appreciates the assistance provided to the Port Moresby Sub-Branch by the staff of the Australian and New Zealand High commissions and Australian Defence Force staff posted to the PNG.

Commemorative Events

The ACT Branch continues to arrange or participate in many commemorative activities in Canberra and the surrounding region. Naturally ANZAC Day forms the major commemorative event in the yearly calendar but other events continue to involve Branch members just as much. As the years progress there are more and more events being added to the ceremony calendar. I am particularly appreciative of the Branch Executive team who are willing and able to take a share of the workload in this regard.

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.

Other schools throughout the ACT are increasingly requesting assistance from sub-branches to participate

in their ANZAC ceremonies. These are held during normal school term time which often is well before ANZAC Day due to school holidays thus allowing for suitable representation.

Dawn Service

Another brisk Canberra morning again did not deter the large numbers (estimated at around 25,000 plus) who were in attendance. The solemn laying of wreaths on the Stone of Remembrance during the ceremony by a representative from the Vietnamese Sub-Branch and the Defence Adviser at the New Zealand High Commission, symbolised the unity of ANZAC. Detective Senior Sergeant 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. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cairns, Salvation Army, provided the Recitation for ANZAC Day, with Junior Legatee Miss Jordie Pardoel 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

The attendance at this year's program was estimated as being slightly larger than last year. Air Marshal Mark Binskin, AO took the Salute with the march being jointly led by Mr John King, ACT Branch President, and Commodore Ross Smith, MNZN RNZN, Defence Adviser, New Zealand High Commission.

Our sincere thanks are due 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 thanks are due 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, following the commemorations in ANZAC Parade, the Ambassador of France held a memorial service, where a wreath was laid by the Branch President, Mr John King. A formal reception in the Embassy residence followed the service.

Other Commemorative Events

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

- National Servicemen's Memorial Service
- ADFA Chief of Defence Force Parade
- RMC Prizes and Sporting Awards Ceremony
- RMC Full Time GSO Graduation Parade
- RMC Trooping the Colours
- Republic of South Vietnam Armed Forces Day ceremony
- Japan's Self-Defence Forces Day luncheon at the Japanese Embassy
- Battle of the Coral Sea Ceremony
- Korean War Ceremony
- Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Battle for Australia Commemorative Ceremony

- Greek OXI Day ceremony at Australian-Hellenic Memorial
- Battle of Crete Service
- National Merchant Navy Annual Memorial Service
- Japanese Embassy reception to honour the Emperor's birthday
- Remembrance Day Ceremony at 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 2012 Official Reception

Branch Congress

The ACT Branch Congress was again held at the Hellenic Club, Canberra on Friday, 15 June 2012, 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 Commodore Ross Smith, MNZN RNZN, 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), the Honourable Warren Snowdon, MP, (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), Senator the Honourable Michael Ronaldson, (Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs), and Mr Ian Campbell, PSM, (Secretary Department of Veterans' Affairs). These speakers were complimented by other VIP guests including, in alphabetical order, Brigadier Chris Appleton, CSC (Retd), Mr Shane Carmody (Deputy President DVA), Ms Jennifer Collins (Deputy Commissioner DVA), Mr Jeremy Hanson, CSC, MLA (ACT Government Opposition), Senator Gary Humphries, Major-General David McLachlan AO (Retd) (Victorian State President RSL), Mr Derek Robson AM (RSL National Secretary), representatives of Service Chiefs, together with Past ACT Branch Presidents Gary Brodie OAM, John Merrick 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
Vice President	Mr Rod Bennett
Vice President	Mr Peter Eveille
Vice President	Mr Jan Paulga
Minute Secretary	Mr Paul Bohun

After a ballot, Mr Peter Collas was elected Deputy President. There was no nomination for Branch Treasurer, and Mr John Kent was appointed subsequently.

League Awards

The following League Awards and Certificates were presented by Commodore Ross Smith:

The [Meritorious Service Award](#) was presented to:

- Mr Laurence J. Dillon (City of Canberra Sub-Branch)

Life Memberships were awarded to:

- Brigadier John Sheldrick OAM (Retd) (City of Canberra Sub-Branch)
- Mr Alan Ross Thomas (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Mr Jonathan King (ACT Branch President)

50 Year Membership Certificates were awarded to:

- Mr Sidney Bonner (presented earlier in the year)
- Mr Clive Gesling
- Mr Donald McLennan (presented earlier in the year)

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to:

- Mr Maxwell Brennan (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Mr Peter David Brennan (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)*
- Mr Peter John Collas (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Mr Robert Eugene Cremer (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Mr Bryan Walter Pannell (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)
- Mr Gerard Michael Pratt (Gungahlin Sub-Branch)
- Mr Peter George Sutton (Woden Valley Sub-Branch)*
- A number of Certificates were announced to be presented at a suitable date by a Port Moresby Sub-Branch representative

(* accepted by a Sub-Branch representative)

RSL – ADF Involvement

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

Membership

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

Provision of Assistance

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 Branch and the 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. I view with 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 and, thanks to the sterling efforts of sub-branch members, our ANZAC Day and 'Red Poppy' appeals, we continue to support

the local veteran community. 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.

Branch 'Stand To' Magazine

Stand To continues to be produced however more input is desirable from the sub-branches. Members have access to hard copy or the e-version on the Branch website.

Comments of Appreciation

My sincere thanks to the RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), RSL National Secretary, Mr Derek Robson AM; the respective RSL State Presidents 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 arisen 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 2013.

JOHN KING
Branch President

National Trustees Report

General

The National Trustees met on three occasions during 2012 and handled some more pressing matters out of session.

The National Trustees were:

Mr John Sheldrick OAM
Mr John Button OAM (until his death in May)
The Hon Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM
Mr Eric Kay AM ED
Mr Derek Roylance AM
Mr Gary Brodie OAM
Mr Don Porter AFC RFD
Mr Brian Loftus RFD

Mr John Button was a National Trustee of the League for 39 years and held the position of Chairman for many years.

John was a stalwart contributor to the work of the RSL and in particular to the National Trustees. He is fondly remembered for his sound advice, his leadership and unceasing work effort. The National Trustees were saddened at his passing, a friend and colleague and extend their most sincere condolences to his wife Pauline and their family.

Although he opted not to attend its meetings, the National Trustees thank the National President for his ongoing and valued support in their work. Mr John King, President, RSL ACT State Branch remained as the RSL National Executive representative on the Committee and attended all meetings. Mr David Sinclair, National Treasurer, again provided balanced and constructive advice to the Committee. Mrs Jan Ormerod continued to provide excellent secretarial support. Mr Sinclair and Mrs Ormerod attended all meetings.

Status of Funds

Most funds administered by the National Trustees operate by maintaining the capital value of the Funds and providing grants from earnings. Donations to the Funds remain poor and most funds, given the reduction in interest rates, risk a decline in the contemporary value of their capital and the grants that may be provided. The Jubilee Commemoration Fund of the RSL continues to receive income from capitation payments.

Welfare and Disaster Fund

In 2011, the Trustees reported a grant of \$10,000 made through SSAFA (UK), to an Australian ex-serviceman now residing in the UK to assist in his mobility. The grant went ahead and mobility assistance was provided for the ex-servicemen, however the need subsequently became unnecessary due to his declining health. The means of mobility was then disposed of and SSAFA (UK) returned the sum of £6000 to the RSL from the sale.

The Trustees were most appreciative of SSAFA (UK) consideration and assistance through this whole matter and, at their request, granted £1000 from the £6000 returned, towards the purchase of an electric riser/recliner chair for the Australian ex-serviceman.

Jubilee Commemoration Fund of the RSL

RSL Scholarships

Two RSL Scholarships were awarded to dependents of servicemen through the Australian Veterans Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) in 2012.

The recipients for the 2012 scholarships were Andrew Jones who is studying for his Bachelor of Economics/Bachelor of Science degrees at the University of Queensland and Zac Craigen who is studying for his Bachelor of Criminology at Deakin University. Providing the scholarship winners remain in good academic standing and acceptable under financial circumstances, each scholarship provides similar support to them through the second and third year of studies. In all, over 3 years, each selected student can receive a total of \$12,000 from their RSL scholarship. Given there are two new awards made each year and the continuing awards made in subsequent years of study, the total RSL Scholarships awards each year are \$24,000.

The National Trustees are most appreciative once again to AVCAT for the very good support provided in the selection of scholarship winners and the continuing administration of the scholarships.

Reg Saunders Scholarships

The National Trustees continued to provide a scholarship of \$2,000 to an indigenous student at the Cape York Institute.

The National Trustees agreed that, commencing in 2013, a further scholarship of \$2,000 be granted to assist another indigenous student studying through the Cape York Institute.

Proceedings were initiated to provide a scholarship through The Batchelor Institute in Darwin. This is expected to commence in 2013.

RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships

The National Trustees agreed to continue this scholarship beyond the inaugural scholarships awarded for 2010 and 2011.

These scholarships, each valued at \$4,500 per year, support two local students attending Port Moresby Grammar School in their final two years of study – years 11 and 12. The new recipients for 2012 and 2013 were Luluka Tsang and Ronald Hosea.

Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch has again been active with Port Moresby Grammar in the selection of these

students and its contribution has been most helpful to the National Trustees.

RSL New Guinea Campaign Tertiary Scholarships

The National Trustees agreed to institute a scholarship to support a local person through three years of tertiary study at a local university. The scholarships will be offered once each 3 years and will commence in 2013. It will be valued at \$3,500 per year. Again Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch has been most helpful in arranging selection and administrative procedures for this scholarship and their contribution is acknowledged with gratitude.

Medical Exchanges

The National Trustees were pleased to maintain the RSL support to the University of Sydney's Medical School - Northern program which provides for medical student exchanges with PNG and Fiji. Support was also continued to the Hoc Mai Foundation for medical student exchanges with Vietnam. A total grant, toward all three exchanges, of \$15,000 was made in 2012, which includes \$5,000 donated from the Wally Lussick Fund in PNG.

The Chairman of National Trustees was pleased to accept an invitation to present the scholarships to the successful exchange students.

Kapyong (Gapyeong) Scholarships

The Australian Defence Attache in Seoul, South Korea has advised that these scholarships continue to be popular with students at both secondary and primary schools in Gapyeong. The scholarships, each worth \$US920, were made available as in previous years. The scholarships include one each from the Australian Korean Society (ACT), the Australian Korean War Memorial Fund and the RSL Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

Assistance to Santa Clara Orphanage – Timor Lesté

Last year the National Trustees reported that they were pleased to offer a grant of \$17,020 for the construction of a well at the Santa Clara Orphanage in Dili and that an initial payment of \$10,000 had been made.

During 2012 the Trustees were advised that the well was now completed and functioning satisfactory and as a result, the final payment was then granted. All reports are that the well was well received and is able to support not only the Orphanage but surrounding villages as well.

RSL & 6th Division Australian - Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund

The National Trustees maintained the value of the 6th Australian Division Scholarship and the Preveli Monastery Scholarship at \$3,250 each. In addition, a grant of \$1,000 was made to the Bishop of Spili's Fund.

Last year's report commented on the difficulty foreseen as cost of living increases and interest rates declined in the Fund being able to maintain a contemporary value for the scholarships and donation without an input to the capital value of the Fund.

During 2012 there has been no change in the capital value of the fund and the foreseen difficulties.

While in Athens on a private visit to Greece and beyond in the latter part of 2012, the Chairman National Trustees was invited by the Australian Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms Jenny Bloomfield to attend a function arranged at her residence and to have the honour to present the RSL sponsored scholarship to the 2012 winners. Both winners were about to undertake study to become medical doctors.



Her Excellency Jenny Bloomfield, General Kostarakos, John Sheldrick, the two scholarship recipients, Mr Charalampos Balomenakis and Mr Raphael Kartsioukas, and the Bishop of Spili at the presentation ceremony.

Invited guests included the Sub-Regional Governors from Rethymno and Chania in Crete as well as several Greek politicians, Greek veteran representatives and various Defence Attachés. As a mark of esteem towards Australia and the diggers of the 6th Division, the ongoing scholarship arrangements, and the heartfelt relationship that has developed, General Kostarakos, Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff presented a neck decoration, the Greek Commemoration Medal – The Medal of Merit and Honour, to the Chairman. It has been subsequently learned that this is the only time that this medal has been presented to a non-Greek – such is the measure of esteem felt in Greece over the relationship emanating from the Battle of Crete in 1941 and now maintained through this Fund.

VC and Historic Medals Trust

(includes the Special Commemorative Plaques Fund)

This Fund allows the League to assist in commemorative purposes and in the purchase of historic medals for display to the public in museums in Australia, and in particular the Australian War Memorial.

The Special Commemorative Plaques Fund is maintained to support the commemorative work of Dr Ron Bastiaan.

Mountbatten Memorial Fund

The proceeds from this Fund are granted annually to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL). The RCEL assists in relieving distress and hardship among disadvantaged ex-servicemen and women in countries presently or formally members of the Commonwealth of Nations. A grant of \$8,000 was made to the RCEL from the Fund during 2012.

Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund

This Fund enables books to be purchased from accrued interest and presented to the Nurse's Library at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Canberra each year.

During 2012, 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 of books for their library.

RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Australia Trust

During the year grants totalling \$63,200 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

During the year grants totally \$36,840 were paid to RSL National Headquarters to meet a proportion of the welfare costs it incurred as certified by the RSL National Secretary.

National Veterans' Affairs Committee Report



John Hodges

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.

2012 National Congress

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

1. Indexation

That the indexation of all components of Military Superannuation under the DFRB, DFRDB and MSBS schemes be calculated by an indexation regime matching cost of living increases.

2. BEST Funding

That the Government immediately reinstate funding for BEST Round 15 to the Round 12 appropriation.

3. Mental Health Disorders and Rehabilitation

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

4. Residential Care-Younger Veterans

That the Government create a scheme to ensure access to affordable and age appropriate accommodation options for veterans who are unable to live in the community and are too young to access the Commonwealth funded residential aged care system.

5. Veterans' Aged Care

That the Department of Health and Ageing implement reporting/monitoring mechanisms whereby aged care providers must demonstrate that the Special Needs status of veterans is consistently recognised and respected.

6. Home Respite Care

That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) increase the allocated hours of in-home respite care and provide a more flexible approach to granting of overnight respite as the present arrangements do not permit the Carer to have sufficient time away from the Veteran to be beneficial to the Carer's wellbeing.

7. Veterans' Disability Pensions Rates

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

Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act Review

On the 8th May 2012 the Government announced its response to the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements.

Ninety six recommendations will be implemented by the Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Defence and other agencies, with the bulk expected to be implemented on or before 1 July 2013.

It is intended to introduce a Bill containing the legislative changes arising from the Review in February or March 2013 (Autumn sittings) with the expectation that the Bill will be passed in June or July 2013 (Winter sitting). The League along with other major ESOs will be consulted on the Bill before its introduction.

It is anticipated that legislative changes to implement 18 recommendations and one observation addressed in the Government response will be covered in the planned Bill. Additionally, five recommendations (including one of the eighteen that require legislative change) will require legislative instruments.

Consultation with ESOs will occur in March/April 2013 on the Government response to recommendations 7.7 and 7.8 (for DVA to scope a new advocacy model for complex cases) and 17.1 and 17.2 (a single appeal pathway for MRCA through the Veterans' Review Board). These matters will go back to Government for further consideration in the 2014 Budget with 1 July 2014 as the planned implementation date

Repatriation Medical Authority

In 2012 after a review of its long-standing informal liaison arrangements, the Authority agreed to trial a number of variations. The Authority's practice since 1994 has been to conduct an informal meeting between the members of the Authority, officers of the RMA Secretariat and staff members from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The role of the DVA staff has generally been limited to advising on the 'operability' of various factors and the form or manner of expression to be used in them, which reflects the medical science as assessed by the Authority. This advice draws on their experience and knowledge, including the history of claims made for various conditions and any difficulties experienced by line staff in assessing claims.

Following the introduction of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 a member of the Australian Defence Force (generally a medical practitioner knowledgeable about service related issues) has also attended these informal meetings.

The Authority concluded that it would be better informed about the operation of the factors in the Statements of Principles (SoP's) and the mode of expression adopted therein if it also has the benefit of the experience of an Ex-Service Organisation adviser who provides assistance, advice and information to claimants. Consequently, in my capacity as the Chair of the RSL National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC), I have been invited to attend the informal meetings.

My role is to assist the Authority to produce clearly framed SoP's capable of achieving outcomes in relation to claims consistent with the Authority's assessment of the sound medical-scientific evidence available to it.

This liaison arrangement is at the Chairperson's discretion and will be reviewed in 2013.

BEST Grants

There is still widespread criticism throughout the League of the reduction in total funding of the Building Excellence in Support & Training (BEST) grants (refer to RSL Budget Submission 2 above).

The funding for BEST was cut from \$4M in Round 12 to \$3.5M in Round 13 to \$2.6M in the current Round 14. This cut has caused considerable difficulty to RSL Sub-Branch Pension, Welfare Officers and Advocates in assisting veterans and Serving Members in their applications for Entitlements. In Victoria, some Veteran Centres have been forced to close even though in the BEST Review of 2011 they were highlighted as the model which all ESO's should aim.

The League, through the National President, continues to raise its discontent with all levels of Government.

National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC) Meetings

It is planned to have a meeting summary placed on the RSL National Website (www.rsl.org.au) after all NVAC meetings from mid-2013. This will allow all members of the League to view what was discussed and what actions were taken on any particular issue.

All members are still encouraged to bring to the attention of their relevant State Veterans' Affairs Committee any issue in the Veterans' Affairs portfolio that is of concern.

Conclusion

The main focus of NVAC continues to ensure 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, National Executive, fellow members of NVAC and the staff at National Headquarters for their support throughout the year.

JOHN M HODGES
National Veterans' Affairs Advisor

National Defence Committee Report

General

There have been two significant events during the year. The first in April was a statement from the Prime Minister detailing a timetable for an Australian partial withdrawal from Afghanistan and the second the handing down of the Defence budget in May.

The withdrawal from Afghanistan began in mid 2012 and will be completed by the end of 2013, however some elements will remain for both operational and training purposes, and significant aid to the country will continue indefinitely. In May the Defence budget revealed cuts of nearly \$6 billion and the lowest level of spending as a percentage of GDP, at just under 1.6%, since 1938. While some adjustments were anticipated, the cuts were much larger than expected and will present a severe setback to the development of the ADF in the out years.

In the international field the situation with regard to Iran's nuclear weapons development remains unresolved, the Syrian civil war rages on and North Korea remains just as intransigent. Nearer to home the conflicting claims in the South China Sea between China and most of the countries of South East and North Asia remain unresolved, with the dispute with the Philippines particularly intense. Distrust between the US and Pakistan remains the same with consequences for a resolution of the situation in Afghanistan when NATO substantially withdrawals in 2014.

Afghanistan

In April, the Prime Minister delivered a statement on the situation in Afghanistan and the outline for an Australian withdrawal from that country. In essence, the withdrawal will begin in mid 2012 and last for between twelve and eighteen months, although it was emphasised that the bulk of the force will not be home until the end of the process. This is somewhat earlier than was originally planned, as a date of 2014 has generally been accepted and appears likely to have been timed to coincide with an election at the end of 2013.

It was emphasised also that the end of this process will not see all Australian forces completely leave, as it is currently intended that some Special Forces and some training staff will remain, although the advisory role will probably be confined to the command level. Financial aid to Afghanistan will continue into the foreseeable future.

The Prime Minister stated that the 4th Brigade, the focus of Australian efforts, is progressing satisfactorily and that 50% of operations of the Brigade are now commanded by Afghans together with 25% of Special Force operations. The CDF further stated that the Brigade during the early part of the year, initiated, planned and executed two complete unit size activities with good results. The last two deployments of battalions to mentor the 4th Brigade are 8/9 RAR, deployed for six months in February, and 6 RAR, again

deployed for six months following 8/9, which means the end of the mentoring role in February 2013.

While the situation on the ground is generally considered to be progressing in the right direction no one considers that the Afghan government or its army will not require considerable support, both financially and practically, after withdrawal. This appears to have been accepted by all participants in the ISAF/ NATO Coalition. The Army is generally considered to be making good progress, but not the police force still mired in corruption and inefficiency, and the government which still has some significant weakness. The attitude of the Taliban will be of prime importance to the future of the country. Although some overtures have been made only the most naive would believe that its attitude has changed fundamentally, and if the present regime is to survive it must be strong enough to suppress the organisation at every level after withdrawal of the Coalition. This only further emphasizes the need for ongoing long term support.

In late May, the Government announced that Australia will take command in Oruzgan Province from the US from the end of 2012.

There has also been press reporting of an issue between the Department and the Minister on releasing details of ADF fatalities.

Pakistan

There is no doubt that some elements of the Pakistani armed forces, particularly the intelligence service continue to support the Taliban, and while this support remains it further jeopardises the post withdrawal situation in Afghanistan. The stability of Pakistan when NATO forces have substantially withdrawn from Afghanistan is of vital concern to the US and its allies, and both the US and Pakistan have significant interests in maintaining some form of relationship. In Pakistan's case the aid it receives from the US enables it to maintain substantial armed forces and to keep its economy from collapse. However, Pakistan is unstable politically, weak economically and suffers from major internal security problems. There is no indication that the current situation will change in the foreseeable future.

North Korea

On the 16 April North Korea launched a rocket that was claimed to be a test for putting a satellite into orbit. The intended launch had been widely criticised by the US, Japan and South Korea and was generally seen as a vehicle for a long range nuclear missile. In the event, the rocket broke up after 90 seconds and its debris fell into the Yellow Sea. This was fortunate as both Japan and South Korea had said that they would shoot it down if it passed over their territory. This is the third time that North Korean rockets have failed, but they have always been followed by nuclear tests and it is expected that a test will follow. The rocket failure appeared to show that North Korean long range rocket technology is still significantly deficient, even though it is generally agreed that she

has some nuclear capability. As the year draws to a close, North Korea is again threatening another rocket launch

Beijing has urged restraint on both sides but has not condemned the test launch. It might appear Beijing does not want North Korea to have nuclear weapons, but the possibility exists that it cannot influence the rogue regime sufficiently. Another view gaining ground is that China is happy with North Korea's behaviour because it disconcerts the US and Japan and acts as a buffer between herself and South Korea. There are a number of signs recently that this interpretation is the most likely, including the entertainment of Kim Jong-un as Kim Jong-il's successor, and the fact that North Korea relies entirely for its survival on Chinese support.

Another question is whether Kim Jong-un has the undisputed power or whether he is a puppet of the military. by far the most powerful force in the country. Whether the answer, Jong-un's succession has not produced any change in North Korean rhetoric or posture.

The South China Sea

Conflicting territorial claims over the South China Sea between China and various South East Asian countries began in 2007 and show no signs of resolution. Chinese military assertiveness became more marked in 2010 with a view in the West that the government of China had elevated the South China Sea to a vital national interest. The dispute is becoming an increasing source of friction between China and South East Asian countries on the one hand and China and the US and the other, with regional nations harbouring a general distrust of China.

The dispute involving Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan is in general based on nationalism and specifically on control of the sea lanes and on completing claims over fisheries and access to potential mineral resources. Clashes have occurred in the past between the Chinese and the navies of Vietnam and the Philippines. The confrontation continued in April this year between the Chinese and the Philippines over the Scarborough Shoal near the mouth of Subic Bay and close to Manila and inside what the Philippines counts as its exclusive economic zone. As the Philippines is not capable defending its own interests, it is looking to the US for support. This places the US in the difficult position of supporting the Philippines without unnecessarily antagonising China. The US does not want Chinese domination of the South China Sea and has declared its commitment to maintaining freedom of navigation, a move generally endorsed in the region. However it cannot push too hard on the question in view of its wider strategic interests in maintaining its relationship with China and stability in North East Asia.

The South China Sea became a controversial subject at the recent East Asia Summit with the issue effectively preventing agreement on a final communique. More recently, two events have highlighted China's determination to claim the disputed area. One was a statement by a senior Chinese official about controlling their waters and

another was the threat to board vessels transiting through the disputed area.

Iran

Whether or not Iran is developing nuclear weapons or nuclear capacity for peaceful purposes remains an open question. Her continued refusal to allow full international inspection of the country's nuclear facilities fuels speculation that she has something to hide. The real question however is how long the Israelis are prepared to wait for an answer before taking action to destroy Iran's nuclear weapons potential. The Israelis are ready and willing but are only stopped at present by world opinion on the one hand and much more importantly by US opposition. Some countries such as Saudi Arabia favour taking action now but they are a very small minority. If Israel believes its survival is directly threatened she has proved in the past that world opinion is no barrier to direct action. The outcome of any such unilateral action is uncertain to say the least and could be catastrophic.

Defence Budget

The Defence Budget for 2012-13 announced in April was not unexpected, but extremely adverse, finally reversing most projections and commitments made in the 2009 White Paper, a process in train since 2009.

The budget next year will fall in real terms by 10.5%, the largest yearly reduction since the Korean War. In addition, defence spending as a percentage of GDP will fall to 1.56%, the smallest figure since 1938. The significance of this historical fact should not be lost on anyone and points to the low level of priority afforded to the defence of the nation now and into the future by the present government.

A total of \$5.5billion was cut from the budget over four years, most coming from capital investment, \$3billion from military equipment purchases and \$1.2billion from facilities. Some \$438million has come from administrative reductions and \$360 million from cutting civilians numbers by 1000 over two years. The only reduction to existing capability has been the early retirement of C130H aircraft and the cessation of a successful gap year program for school leavers in Army and Navy.

A further \$2.9billion has been redirected, largely from capital equipment, to meet other key budget pressures, a large element of which is aimed at sustainment of Collins Class submarines. The government has in effect taken a substantial amount of money from Defence to balance the federal budget and simultaneously has reduced capital investment to balance its Defence budget. In both cases capital investment has been adversely affected.

The Strategic Reform Program (SRP) has failed to contain costs and for some of the initial years advertised savings have more to do with accounting than efficiency.

To date \$10.6billion of promised funding for the first five years of the 2009 White Paper has been deferred to sometime in the unknown future. A further

\$10 billion in savings over and above those promised by SRP have been cut from funding for 2011-21 and \$2.5 billion of new initiatives imposed over a decade without funding or offsets. These factors have contributed to this state of affairs:

- The government placing a higher priority on delivering a surplus than on its defence commitments;
- New equipment projects have not been delivered at the speed envisaged in the 2009 White Paper;
- The financial plan at the centre of the 2009 White Paper did not accurately assess the time cost of developing and delivering capability.¹

While most capital equipment has been deferred to unspecified dates there are two items of particular interest, the first the F35 Joint Strike Fighter, the acquisition of the first element of which has been deferred for two years with probably no adverse effect. The second, the cancellation of the order for Self Propelled (SP) artillery for the Army, which is significant as it was the major acquisition contributing to a real upgrading of Army capability.

The question of whether Force 2030 now has any relevance at all will be determined by the 2013 White Paper. In announcing it the Government cited six significant developments internationally and domestically since 2009. Two of these give some indication of how the White Paper will be developed. The first was the ongoing effects of the GFC and the second the drawdown from Afghanistan and East Timor. Obviously this is part of the softening up process. While it theoretically remains committed to the core capabilities of the 2009 White Paper, the references to these ten capabilities contain only one substantive real commitment, the twelve submarines, and even this is subject to doubt.

The key question for the 2013 White Paper will be to define the strategic situation in which Australia finds itself at that time and into the future. The Defence Force must be realistically developed to meet the strategic circumstances defined. The 2009 White Paper did this, matched the force to the circumstances, but failed in applying the necessary resources. The danger for 2013 is that the resources considered to be available will determine the definition of the strategic circumstances. All evidence points to this being the case.

Defence Force Posture Review

Early in the year the Defence Posture Review team of Ric Smith and Alan Hawke released an interim report on its findings and in February Ric Smith briefed the Defence Committee on the findings. Previously the Committee had detailed internal discussions and reached its own conclusions. It was pleasing that the review findings were largely in line with those of the Committee.

In essence these were;

- That there is no need for any significant relocation of defence assets to meet present or projected

threats, but there is a need for adjustments to present facilities.

- That this was the first review of its kind since the 80's and that disposition does not mean new bases and new ports.
- Maintaining a higher level of activity in an area would require a significant increase in logistics and upgrading of some existing facilities.
- Any increase in naval presence would be hampered by a lack of natural deep water ports in the north and west, and there is a requirement to upgrade port facilities in areas such as Exmouth, Carnarvon, Port Headland and Broome, and the expansion of wharf facilities at Darwin and Townsville and Brisbane to cater for the large amphibious vessels now on order.
- The future of the Navy's east coast assets and bases require further study including an assessment of Brisbane in this context.
- Offshore facilities require upgrading.
- Airfields such as RAAF Learmonth RAAF base require upgrading.
- There is a need for a reaction force capability in the north-west to protect offshore assets, but existing capacity with some adjustment is adequate.
- No re-location of existing Army battalions is required.
- The question of industrial support in the north is of vital importance, but there is now a more competitive environment for ADF support in the larger northern cities.
- Logistics to support deployments onshore and offshore in the north and west needs upgrading, especially the capacity to refuel.
- Personnel issues are important but cannot drive decisions.
- Operational convenience versus strategic necessity is an important consideration.
- Any rationalisation of current bases is a separate issue.

In March the Final Report was delivered and made the point that it confirmed the overall judgements made in the Progress Report. Individual recommendations are too numerous to detail but make the fundamental judgements that the changing strategic environment does not necessitate widespread changes to the location of ADF bases but that ADF posture needs to be adjusted to meet current and future needs. There are however some significant risks that will increase in time which mostly relate to the capacity of ADF bases, facilities and training areas to support current and future needs in Australia's north and north west. The necessity to sustain high tempo operations in Northern Australia and approaches and in the wider Asia Pacific is also a key element in any adjustments to be made.

The Committee's view is that the Report is a common sense response to its Terms of Reference and has avoided unnecessary recommendations. The Minister's reaction will be interesting when it is released.

Submarines

The Defence White Paper of 2009 had as one of its key elements the building of 12 new long range and capable conventionally powered submarines by 2030.

¹ The Cost of Defence - ASPI Defence Budget2012-13 pps V1-1X

Because no decisions have yet been made, a force of this type could not enter service until, in the best case, by the mid 2030's. As announced by the Minister for Defence on 3 May, SEA 1000 is exploring four broad option sets for consideration by Government at first Pass in 2014:

- Option 1 - A Military Off The Shelf (MOTS) design altered only to achieve compliance with Australian regulatory requirements;
- Option 2 - A MOTS design modified to include specified Australian components / systems, which may include combat, communications and weapon systems;
- Option 3 - An evolved MOTS design modified as far as possible to meet the White Paper capability, but without changing the pressure hull diameter (an updated Collins is the exemplar for this option); and
- Option 4 - A new design to meet the White Paper capability.

The first two options may require the least initial outlay but would be expensive over the long term; they would be much less capable than the highly capable submarine set out in DWP 2009. Their utility would be severely limited and of use in only the least likely contingency – defending the Sea-Air Gap to the north of Australia. If the Government maintains the view that a long-range highly capable submarine will be required then a more likely option would be an extension of life for COLLINS and a selection of either a technologically refreshed COLLINS [Option 3 above] or a new design that would have a growth capacity. [Option 4 above].

These studies will provide the first reliable cost estimates for the Future Submarine Program; estimates of a program cost of \$36 billion in the media originated in an Australian Strategic Policy Institute [ASPI] straight-line extrapolation of historical costs. A Kokoda Foundation Paper estimate was considerably lower at \$18 billion.

The Option 4 above is the most desirable from the local industry point of view and could form the basis of a sustainable submarine building industry for the long term. It has been estimated that even if the plan to build local submarines began today the first submarine would not be in service by 2027. It is unlikely that the White Paper target of 2030, which in any case has been suspended by the 2012-13 budget, will not be attained until some years later.

The Government is clearly stalling on the decision, which could have been made much earlier, and in December 2011 announced a Future Submarine Industry Skills Plan designed to determine what is required to build and sustain Australia's Future Submarine capability. The terms of reference for the study appear to be directed at the production of a locally designed and built submarine with a report to be delivered by the end of the year. If this is the case then the acquisition of a replacement for Collins is well into the future, with the attendant reduction in capability even if the life of type of the COLLINS Class is extended.

Review into Cruise Ship Access to Garden Island

For some years the cruise ship industry has been pressing for increased access for berthing facilities at Garden Island which could only come about under current arrangements at the expense of naval access. In 2011 the NSW State Government reviewed the situation, however the question of naval access is a defence issue and in June 2011 the Minister for Defence announced that an Independent Review led by Dr Alan Hawke would assess the position and make recommendations. Dr Hawke's report was received in February.

In the interim, the National President had made a submission to the review in which he argued strongly that naval access should not be reduced and made suggestions as to how cruise ship access could be enhanced.

The Review found that current and future naval capability requirements determine that the existing basis of limited berth bookings for cruise ship access approval by Navy, must be maintained. It also found that guaranteed shared access to existing berths at Garden Island cannot be achieved without adversely impacting on naval operations. The review also made suggestions for improving the current arrangements and noted most importantly that Defence's long term security task takes precedence over the commercial requirements of the cruise industry. The RSL supports the review's findings.

In July, however, the Prime Minister announced that enhanced cruise ship access to Garden Island will be allowed, directly contradicting the findings of the Hawke Review.

Navy Support Unit

There have been continuous controversies over the maintenance and repair of naval vessels and in April the Chief of Navy announced a new organisation Fleet Support Unit – Australia to provide better maintenance support.

This new unit will be an amalgam of the current fleet support units located in various establishments around the country with a mission to focus on the intermediate level maintenance services of the fleet. In doing this it will now effectively utilise the efforts of the skilled work force. The new unit will be run by a General Manager who will report to a Governance Board chaired by the Head of Navy Engineering.

Officer Training and Education

In March the Committee was briefed on the latest developments in officer education in relation to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), the Australian Command and Staff College (ACSC) and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (CDSS). These three institutions are responsible the three main levels of progressive officer education in the ADF. ADFA provides pre-commissioning training, the ACSC mid level professional training and the CDSS the highest level of education for more senior officers.

During the course of the briefing it was revealed to the surprise of the Committee that the Australian Command and Staff course run by ACSC is now run by the Australian National University on a long term contract. Apparently the military content of the course is now five percent of the total. Some years ago, in the Army's case, the Command and Staff College course was the principle professional course to prepare students for command at battalion level and for higher staff and command appointments. Since then the military content has been steadily eroded until the equivalent course is almost entirely without military content. The other two Services also had professional courses at this level. This is an extraordinary state of affairs and one which requires further explanation.

Meeting with the Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology & Personnel

On 25 June, the Defence Committee had a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology & Personnel Stuart Robert. Mr Robert gave an interesting and comprehensive summary of the issues of vital concern to the ADF including the Defence Budget, personnel matters, the organisation of the DMO and the Australian strategic situation now and into the future. He displayed a refreshing command of the detail and a genuine interest in a variety of subjects. His views were very much in line with those of the Committee and its members came away with confidence that he would be a strong voice for the ADF in a future government.

Consultations with the Defence Committee

During the course of the year, the Defence Committee has had consultations with and been briefed by the following:

- Mr Ric Smith on the Defence Force Posture Review
- Major General Orme on officer education
- Mr Mark Thomson on the Defence Budget
- Air Marshal Brown on the Air Force
- Vice Admiral Griggs on the Navy and the Defence Budget
- Major General Campbell on Afghanistan
- General Hurley on the Australian Defence Force
- Rear Admiral Moffitt on the new submarine program

Conclusion

The most disappointing aspect of the year to date has been the Federal Budget which was finally reversed most of the potential progress detailed in the 2009 White Paper. Additionally, comments contained in the Budget papers suggest that more is to come in the next few years of the forward projections. Essentially the return to surplus in the Federal Budget has been paid for at the expense of the capacity of the ADF to modernise and to realise the potential forecast in 2009. The withdrawal from Afghanistan will no doubt provide further justifications for reductions. While the Opposition has promised to hold the line if elected in 2013, any increase in expenditure will be difficult. The Government has forecast another White Paper in 2013 which provides it with the capacity to tailor the strategic situation to whatever funding level is required for overall budgetary purposes and therefore the outlook for the next few years is bad.

Alan Titheridge
CHAIRMAN

National Conditions of Service Committee Report

The work of the RSL National Conditions of Service Committee over the past year has again focussed on those issues concerning the serving members of the ADF. The Committee has built on 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 has moved 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; continue to engage the Committee's attention.

As we develop our own agenda, we will continue to pursue issues where members or sub-branches put them forward.

The Committee now has informal links back to many allied ex-service organisations through the membership on the Committee of principals from those other organisations. The latest addition to the Committee is DFVA Vice President – Pay & Conditions of Service, Mr Les Bienkiewicz.

The Committee has been active in several areas including housing, removals, medical services and the remuneration areas of pay and allowances. The priority issues we are keeping under consideration are:

- Indexation of Military Superannuation
- The introduction of a standard school education curriculum
- ADF medical system
- Consultation with Government
- Communication with serving members
- RSL Membership by Serving Members
- Advocacy services for serving members
- RSL representation on DFRT
- Increasing importance of addressing mental health issues
- Family support policies
- Base Accommodation
- Support to Cadet and Reserve Forces
- Medical and dental
- Basic infrastructure
- Maintaining numbers of reservists to maintain commitments

Peter McDermott
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 2012 Recipient

The 2012 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.

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

In 2012, RSL AFOF provided packages to personnel serving overseas in Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Iraq, Israel, Middle East, Sinai, Solomon Islands and Sudan. Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions.

A total of 3,000 mid-year packages and 3,709 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 National RSL Membership on the RSL Defence Sub-Branch website which was specifically designed for serving ADF personnel.

The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund is supported by all Australians, and the ongoing personal monetary donations from the Veteran and general community ensure the continuance of the Fund's activities. The Fund is promoted through a wide distribution of the AFOF brochure which contains a brief history of the Fund and its purpose. In particular, the following significant donations were very much appreciated:

• Bedford-Morely Sub-Branch RSL	\$4,000
• Belconnen Sub-Branch RSL	\$1,000
• Brisbane Sth Br - National Servicemens' Association of Australia	\$ 500
• Canberra City Pipes and Drums	\$9,971
• City of Blacktown RSL Club Ltd	\$ 854
• City of Penrith RSL Women's Auxiliary	\$2,000
• Kyneton Uniting Church Opportunity Shop	\$1,100
• Moree RSL Womens' Auxiliary	\$ 500
• Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary	\$1,000
• Salisbury RSL Sub-Branch	\$ 500
• Tweed/Coolangatta Sub-Branch Partners of Veterans Association of Australia NSW Inc	\$ 600
• War Widows' Guild of Australia WA Branch Monday Craft Group	\$ 900

AFOF relies on the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in the preparation of the packages, and is greatly appreciated.

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

RSL Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

ACT

DILLON, L J

NSW

GARDINER, D R

QLD

GILVEAR, A

ROBERTS, B

ROBERTS, B R

STREETON, R H

VIC

BARCLAY JP, K

BYRNE OAM, P

McLAREN, A

RACKETT JP, D

Life Membership

VIC

BOWDEN OAM JP, T
BURTON, M
BUTCHER, I
CARLTON, R
CORNISH, D
CROFT, J
CULLEN OAM, J

CUMMING, K
DAY, A
DENNY, G
DIPROSE, P
FIDLER, M
FORBES, B
GANNAWAY, A

GORDON, H
KEECH, P
KRAUSE, M
MACDONALD, R
MacKINLEY, L
MALLOCH, G
MARSHALL, J H

McCARTHY, J
McCARTHY, R
McPHEE OAM, P
MISSEN, R
MITCHELL, D
MITCHELL, J
RICHES AM, J

SAUNDERS, L W
SHEPHERD, W
TIBBITS, D
VINCENT, D F
WILSON, A T

TAS

ALOMES, A
BRUCE, P

DOBSON, S
KAYS, M

MILLS, P
PEDDER, G

SA

BARRETT, J R
BROWN, G
GARNETT, J S

NOBLE, A G
PETTINGILL, O R
PUMPA, S J

SMITH, R N
TILLEY, M L

TRENORDEN, W
VAHLBERG, A R

WILSON, E

NSW

ABBOTT, W K
BARTOLO, J P
BIELE, R L
BURGES, W R
BYWATER, B R
CAIN, B J

CHAPPLE, A J
COUGHRAN, R A
DAWSON, F G
DELANY, F M
GIORDANO, P
GRAHAM, G

HARDMAN, W H
KEENAN, G G
LOWE, J H
MAGNAY, K
MASON, G B
NEWALL, D W

PAINÉ, D R
ROFE, H L
SCHEFFERS, H J
SHELDON, R
SMITH, M S
TAYLOR, D J

THOMPSON, M
WEDDELL, G
WELLARD, L

ACT

KING, J

SHELDRIK OAM, J A

THOMAS, R

QLD

CULLEN, N
DAVIS, J
DURIE, D

GARLAND, N
LONG, R
LUXTON, M

MENAGH, J
OEHLMAN, D
PATON, K

SHADLOW, F
STEWART, R

WEBB, D

WA

BALCOMBE, D E

FOTHERINGHAM, B J

GODDARD OAM, A C

MATTHEWS, E J

SCANLAN, A F

Honorary Life Membership

VIC

O'MEARA, M

NHQ

Professor Ken Donald AO

Honorary Membership

Nil

Honorary Membership for Life

Nil

Certificate of Appreciation

TAS

HODGMAN OAM, B

ACT

BRENNAN, M
BRENNAN, P D

COLLAS, P J
CREMER, R E

PANNELL, B W

PRATT, G M

SUTTON, P G

Nominated by the Port Moresby Sub-Branch, PNG:

BNG Trading Ltd
Brian Bell & Co Limited
City Pharmacy Limited
Coca Cola Amatil (PNG) Limited
Cord & Associates
Credit Corporation
EMTV
MJ Electrical
Mr Craig Henderson - Office of War Graves
Nationwide Catering Services

Pacific MMI Limited
PNG Freezers
Post Courier
Pure Water Limited
Royal Papua Constabulary Band
Royal Papua Yacht Club
SP Brewery
The Australian High Commission
The Corps Security
The National

VIC

BATEMAN, W

FIELD OAM, A

JACKSON OAM, J

PAHL, A

PETER, G

QLD

VILES, R B

Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge

SA

FREEMAN, S

KENT, M

QLD

KRANEN, J

NSW

CARRALL, D D

EVERINGHAM, D M

KANG, A

RUSSO, L J

WOOD, N

VIC

YEO, T

Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

TAS

BROOKS, J CLARKE, E COY, P	DWYER, P GREY, J HARDWICKE, N	McKENZIE, L MORGAN, L PEDLEY, J	POULSON, J PYKE, M RILEY, J	WEEDING, M WHELAN, H WILLIAMS, V
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VIC

BELL, L DAVIES, G GIRDWOOD, A	GOLDIE, L JEFFERY, P KING, P	MERLO, P RUITENBEEK, K	SCHNEIDER, V SMITH, N	VANCE, M
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QLD

COLLINS, E M	HOWELL, J T	JAMES, R	MULLENS, D	WHIPP, A
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NSW

ANSTEE, H BEARD, N I BRILL, G J BUNT, M CAMPBELL, J	COGHLAN, J T CONNOLLY, W DELAUNEY, S M EDDY, C FITZPATRICK, C	HOLLAND, F M JENKINS, F LEWIS, B MILLER, C MOWBRAY, M	RADFORD, D M RICHARDSON, B M RIPLEY, M TITHERADGE, J VRIELING, L	WELCH, R WILLOUBY, M
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SA

BROWNE, H	PATTERSON, J
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50 Year Membership Certificate

VIC

ALEXANDER, H BOYLE, T BRISCOE, A FOLAN, M	FRECKLETON, A GEORGE, E GREEN, B JOHNSTON, K	KENDALL, R LEWIS, R LORRAINE, A McMAHON, J	MOON, F MOORE, K W NEWLAND, J ROSS, D G	RUSSELL, J SMITH, K STIEFEL, B
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TAS

COLTMAN, R C FLETCHER, R F R	FRANKS, M FRANKS, M	GOWARD, A G SMITH, R A	VINEY, J G	WILKINSON, W R
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ACT

ARMSTRONG, M ATKINS, G F BONNER, S G	BRASCH, R O CHANDLER, H COTTERILL, E	GESLING, C McHARDY, W	McLENNAN, D McLENNON, D	TEMME, G P
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QLD

BIANCOTTI, J	HERSE, L	PAROZ, D	RUDD, W	SCOTT, A
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SA

ADDISON, K AIRD, R B AYLIFFE DFC, J C BADGER, G D	BATES, L K BAUER, R F BEINKE, G A BILSKE, A J	CASSIDY, R R DUNSTALL, S R FARRUGIA, C FULLER, C O	GILLESPIE, L K HUTTON, R S OSBORNE-WHITE, W S ROSENTHAL, C D	SCHUTZ, G W STEVENS, J W C THOMAS, R M WHITTAKER, R H
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WA

FORREST, C J	GIBSON, G T	HUTTON, A E	LENNON, B T
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60 Year Certificate

NSW

Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch

65 Year Certificate

NSW

Laurieton RSL Sub-Branch
Shortland Sub-Branch

70 Year Certificate

Nil

75 Year Certificate

NSW

Newtown RSL Sub-Branch
Rye Sub-Branch
South Grafton RSL Sub-Branch

80 Year Certificate

NSW

City of Liverpool Sub-Branch

85 Year Certificate

NSW

Maclean RSL Sub-Branch

90 Year Certificate

NSW

Grafton Sub-Branch
Gunnedah RSL Sub-Branch
Moss Vale RSL Sub-Branch
Wellington RSL Sub-Branch

RSL Prizes - 2012

Awards to Service Colleges

The RSL continues to support the pursuit of excellence and, accordingly, makes available a number of awards for Officer trainees. The League's presentations to outstanding cadets at the Defence Force Academy, the Royal Military College of Australia, and HMAS WATSON continue to be highly regarded. These offer an opportunity to make known the League's continuing interest in and involvement with our serving men and women.

Australian Defence Force Academy

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

RSL Sword for Service –

Midshipman Cleo Telford RAN

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 Matthew Broken-Brow

December Graduation - Staff Cadet Timothy Green

HMAS WATSON

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

RSL Sword - Acting Sub-Lieutenant Mitchell Vines



RSL National Secretary Derek Robson presenting the RSL Sword to Acting Sub-Lieutenant Mitchell Vines.

ANZAC Awards

ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize was not awarded in 2012.

ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2012 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

Ann Cook, VIC - in recognition of over 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Melbourne,

particular through Oncology Department of St Vincent's Hospital, and as an advocate for patient-focused care.

Susan Sherson, VIC - in recognition of over 50 years of dedicated service to the community of Melbourne as a nurse educator, as an advocate for improving patient care and as a campaigner for the recognition of Service nurses.

Aidan Grimes, QLD - in recognition of his years of sustained and enthusiastic commitment to the community through his involvement with many community organisations, and in particular through his fostering the understanding and remembrance of Australia's military involvement in the Kokoda Campaign.

Anthony Toussaint, NSW - in recognition of his years of dedicated and committed service to the community of Merimbula and wider community, particularly through the Pambula Lions Club, the Merimbula RSL Sub-Branch and Club, the Robin Hood Service Club, and the Bega Valley Meals on Wheels Plus.

Marie Hurley OAM, NSW - in recognition of her many years of tireless service to the community, particularly through the Nepean Hospital, Neighbourhood Watch and St Finbar's Church.

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 2012 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

Mr Andrew Jones
Mr Zac Craigen

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 2012/13 are Ronald Hosea and Luluka Tsang.

National Executive Members

National Officers/Advisors

National President	Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd)
Deputy National President	Mr Don Rowe OAM
National Secretary	Mr Derek Robson AM
National Treasurer	Mr David Sinclair
National Legal Advisor	Mr Brian Loftus RFD
National Defence Advisor	Major General Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (RL) Air Vice Marshal Alan Titheridge AO (Retd) [from September]
Veterans' Affairs Advisor	Mr John Hodges

State Presidents

Victorian Branch President	Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)
Western Australian President	Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD (until November) The Hon Graham Edwards AM (from December)
New South Wales Branch President	Mr Don Rowe OAM
South Australian Branch President	Mr Jock Statton OAM (until July) Brigadier Tim Hanna AM (from July)
Queensland Branch President	Mr Terry Meehan
Tasmanian Branch President	Mr Bill Kaine MBE (until May) Mr Chris Munday (from May)
Australian Capital Territory Branch President	Mr John King

National Headquarters Staff Members

- as at December 2012

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

RSL Membership Details - as at 31 December 2012

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
ACT/Overseas	1,621	15	nil	nil
NSW	43,841	379	3109	166
QLD	35,667	248	2170	100
SA / NT	12,418	135	280	25
TAS	4,458	51	277	24
VIC	59,876	292	1,345	87
WA	9,567	130	88	7
ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS				
2012	167,448	1,250	7,269	409
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
Level 3/65 Constitution Avenue
CAMPBELL
Phone: (02) 6248 7199
Fax: (02) 6247 7637

Postal Address: GPO Box 303
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:**

Top photo:

Timor-Leste Mission 2012

The Timor Commemorative Mission Party at the memorial for the victims of the Ration Truck Massacre.

Bottom photo:

North Africa 70th Anniversary Commemorative Visit

Jean Parry visits the grave of an Australian soldier at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt.

(Photos courtesy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs)



Back Cover: Kokoda and Beachheads Battles 70th Anniversaries Commemorative Visit

The Catafalque Party rests on arms during the wreath-laying ceremony to honour those who died in Papua during the Second World War at the Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery.

(Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs)



The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance