



# Returned & Services League of Australia

National Annual Report 2015



# CENTENARY of ANZAC

*The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance*

On 25 April every year Australians and New Zealanders gather together to commemorate ANZAC Day. The spirit of ANZAC recognises the qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice which were demonstrated at the Gallipoli landing.

This year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli and there were many significant commemorative events held around the country where Australians gathered to reflect on the many different meanings of war, and to remember those who served and who made the supreme sacrifice.

Australians commemorate ANZAC Day in many ways, by attending Dawn Services or Marches, attending special sporting events, or by participating in unconventional events such as visiting the display of 5000 poppies (which were donated from all around the world) blanketing the area surrounding Melbourne's Federation Square.



Front Cover: ANZAC Day at Villers-Bretonneux  
(Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.)

Inside Front Cover: **Australians found many ways to commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ANZAC.**

Top left photo: A building in Martin Place, Sydney lit up for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

Top right photo: A holographic image displayed on the side of the War Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney

Bottom photo: Federation Square blanketed with handmade poppies donated from all around the world.



# 2015 RSL National Annual Report

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# National President's Report



## Commemoration

The year in which Australians and our New Zealand cousins commemorated the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign was one of considerable achievement for the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL). The extra effort and quite outstanding achievements of so many members in sub-branches in all States and Territories in organising and managing commemorations on ANZAC Day 2015 were rewarded by the attendance of record crowds at Dawn Services and ANZAC Day marches throughout the nation.

After being nominated as the representative of the Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) by the members of the ESO Round Table Conference, I accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Abbott to represent ex-service personnel at the commemorative services on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This visit also allowed me to accept an invitation from the Chief of Navy to take part in a commemorative ceremony onboard HMAS ANZAC earlier in the week in the Sea of Marmara above the site of the wreck of the Australian submarine AE2 lost during the Gallipoli campaign.

The consummate ability of the RSL to so ably cope with large national commemorative events was subsequently recognised by Government when Senator the **Honourable Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans' Affairs** invited the RSL to organise and manage commemorations marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Pacific on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015.



All RSL Branches held most successful commemorative events in each of the State Capitals attended by World War II veterans from their localities.

Many sub-branches held local events with one of the largest and most notable being at Townsville attended by His Excellency the Governor of Queensland the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC.

As co-host with the Government, RSL National organised and conducted a Victory in the Pacific commemorative ceremony at the Cenotaph in ANZAC Square Brisbane. This was attended by a representative group of World War II veterans from around the nation. In the evening these veterans were guests of honour at a gala celebratory dinner at which Prime Minister Abbott and Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths AO DSO DSC RAN (**Ret'd**), a veteran of the Pacific Campaign of World War II were guest speakers.

## Changes in the RSL National Board

There were several significant changes in the RSL National Board during the year.

Mr Rod White AM RFD was elected State President of the New South Wales Branch early in the year and thus became a member of the RSL National Board replacing the Acting State President Mr Peter Stephenson OAM. Mr White is a retired company director and Vietnam Veteran who served in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps from 1964 to 1993. He has been an RSL State Councillor since 2001, Honorary State Treasurer since 2004 and has served as Chairman of RSL LifeCare since 2003. He is also a Director of the ANZAC House Trust and a Trustee of the RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution.

Mr Stewart Cameron CSC was elected State President of the Queensland Branch in mid-year and thus became a member of the RSL National Board replacing Mr Terry Meehan AM. Mr Cameron served in the RAAF from 1972 until 2006 rising to the rank of Air Commodore. He was awarded the CSC for his services during Interfet in 1999/2000. He joined the RSL in 2006 becoming President of the Kenmore-Moggill Sub Branch in 2008.

As a consequence of the ineligibility of Mr Terry Meehan to continue to serve as Deputy National President after his term as Queensland State President ended, Mr Rod White was elected to fill that position until the National Conference in September. At that event the Tasmanian State President Mr Robert Dick was elected Deputy National President.

I take this opportunity to convey my thanks to Mr Stephenson and to Mr Meehan for their contributions to the RSL National Board and on behalf of my fellow Directors wish them all the best for the future. I also thank Mr Meehan and Mr White for their assistance as Deputy National President and welcome Mr Dick to this demanding position.

By decision of the National Board the position formerly known as National Secretary was replaced with the title

Chief Executive Officer (CEO). A publicly advertised recruitment campaign was conducted early in 2015 with the outcome being the appointment of Mrs Samantha Jackman as CEO from 13 April 2015. During the earlier months of the year Mr Chris Perrin and Brigadier Mike Annett were loaned by the New South Wales and Victorian Branches to act as CEO and I convey my sincere thanks to them and to their State Branch Presidents for this generous assistance.

## Advocacy to Government and the Parliament

On 6 January 2015 the RSL accepted an invitation to make a written submission to a Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament inquiring into the mental health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who have returned from combat, peacekeeping or other deployment. This submission was formulated by the RSL **National Veterans' Affairs Committee with a significant** contribution from Dr Rod Bain. Also included was a submission from the Director of Homes for Heroes at RSL LifeCare Mr. Geoff Evans. This was a most important detailed submission on a complex but vitally important subject and I thank all who assisted in its compilation and am encouraged that the issue appears to be being taken more seriously by our politicians.

Shortly thereafter in my **first National President's** Newsletter for 2015 I advised RSL National had forwarded a submission to the Defence Sub Committee of the Joint Committee Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Inquiry into the Defence Annual Report 2013/2014. I also provided members with the full text of this submission. Items covered included remuneration of the Australian Defence Force (ADF); the need for the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) to not only be independent but to be perceived as being independent; concerns about the current system of Australian military justice; and issues to do with defence force capability developments and major defence projects.

On Thursday 7 May 2015 I issued a press release **welcoming the statement by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs**, Senator the Honourable Michael Ronaldson in which he stated the Government had decided not to proceed with changes to pension indexation announced in the 2014-2015 Budget. I subsequently noted in one of my newsletters that members of the RSL should not underestimate the impact they had both individually and collectively in bringing about this reversal of Government policy. The motions passed at all RSL Branch **Conferences deploring the Government's proposed** changed to indexing by Consumer Price Index (CPI) for **some veterans' entitlements from 1 July 2017** demonstrated the extent of RSL opposition to this policy. I went on to note that the RSL 2015-2016 annual budget submission to Government reinforced this stance, as did my subsequent correspondence with and meetings with Prime Minister Abbott.

Another success for RSL advocacy during the year was **the Government's decision** on 4 March 2015 to request the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) to consider a pay offer for the men and women of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) larger than that put forward and agreed to in late 2014. The RSL had lobbied

hard for this outcome including issuing a press statement **in January 2015 critical the Government's handling of the** issue; and my meeting with Prime Minister Abbott about the issue on 2 March 2015. The final outcome before mid-year was DFRT agreement to the better pay deal for the ADF.

Advocacy challenges still in progress include the RSL aim of convincing the Government and the Department of Defence it is in the best interests of all if remuneration cases put before the DFRT are not earlier agreed between the parties; and that civilian occupation workplace benchmarks should be avoided when setting ADF rates of remuneration. The RSL also continues to advocate that the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) not be sold in whole or in part.

Other submissions to the Government and the Parliament during the year included the usual annual RSL Budget submission for the financial year 2016-2017; and a written submission about a Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into the capabilities of Defence Physical Science and Engineering (followed by my testimony as a witness on 17 November 2015).

## Health Outcomes of Military Service

As recorded in my newsletter number 5 of 2015, one outcome of my attendance at a conference focused on the health outcomes of military service in Adelaide on 15 July 2015 was a decision to start work on a comprehensive RSL paper examining options for better ways of producing better through life health for current and former members of the ADF. As I noted at the time we embarked upon this challenge there was (and remains) a clear understanding of the enormity of the challenge and that the outcome may be that there is no more cost effective or better way ahead.

With the assistance and advice of former DVA Principal Medical Advisor Dr Graeme Killer AO and National **Veterans' Affairs Advisor Mr John Hodges work on this** paper was well advanced at the end of the reporting period. The expectation is that the final draft will be put before the RSL National Board before mid-2016 with the aim of forwarding it to Government shortly thereafter.

Input to this paper is being sought widely. To that end I accepted an invitation from the United States of **America's Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)** to attend and address a symposium titled *Warrior Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* in Washington DC in late October 2015. Information gleaned at this event is being used in the RSL paper.

An important philosophical approach in this paper is to consider health holistically and in the context of how best might health care be delivered in such a way as to maximise through life wellbeing. Thus although mental health remains a focus attracting much public attention, it will be considered as a part of the whole rather than a separate issue.

## Governance and Communication

Work had continued throughout the year on the revision of the RSL National Constitution. Thanks to the efforts of a Sub Committee of the RSL National Board headed

by the Victorian State President Major General David McLachlan AO it is now envisaged the revision and consultative process will be complete by mid-2016. The expectation is the revision will be submitted for approval at the RSL National Annual General Meeting in Melbourne on 7 June 2016.

The long sought appointment of a RSL National Communications and Marketing Manager was achieved after a formal recruitment process during the latter part of the year. Donna Alexander has since begun much needed improvements to RSL National social media activities and the national web site. She is also actively involved with communications and marketing staff at all Branches.

Towards the end of the reporting period a major restructuring of the RSL National Office was progressing under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer at the request of the RSL National Board. This change will be implemented fully in early 2016 with the aim of providing more effective and more efficient service to all RSL members.

## RSL Centenary

The foresight of our founders will be honoured in early June 2016 when the Centenary of the founding of what was then the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia will be celebrated in Melbourne.



This will be a gala opportunity for members to reflect on all that has been achieved by the RSL during the past 100 years, to honour those who have done so much for Australia by being part of the RSL during these years and to take up the challenge of what is possible in the future. The theme for the centenary conference *The Next Hundred Years* will reflect both the foresight of the **founders and the determination of today's leadership to focus on the future.**

An important part of the centenary will be the release of a history of the RSL in a publication compiled and edited by Mr John Gatfield and Mr Richard Landels.

## Thanks

This being my last full year as National President I take this opportunity to express my admiration for the tens of thousands of members who continue to devote so much time and effort in helping those of our colleagues who are in need or seek help. During the many visits I have been privileged to make to sub-branches in all States & Territories and at other gatherings I have seen and heard how much is being done and the pride in what is achieved.

Much of what individual RSL members do goes unnoticed and unrecorded despite its importance to the overall effort. For all this I simply say – well done. Keep up the good work. Each of you has every right to be enormously proud of your achievements and Australia is a very much better place for your efforts.

The way the RSL steps up to help out during natural disasters such as bushfires and floods is to the great credit of you all. So too is the much less newsworthy but just important work you do as pension officers, welfare officers, committee members and hospital visitors on a daily basis throughout each year.

You are all great Australians.

**KEN DOOLAN**  
National President

# Chief Executive Officer's Report

2015 was a watershed year for the nation and for the RSL. During the Centenary of ANZAC year, Australians in their hundreds of thousands paused to reflect on the sacrifices of the past. Services and Marches around country, many organised and managed by RSL volunteers, saw record crowds as we all wanted to be involved in the commemorations on this epic day. In many cases the success of those events was testament to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers in Sub-Branched and State Branches across the nation, you can all feel justifiably proud.

2015 was also a watershed year for the RSL National office as we began the task of restructuring the organisation in line with the new strategic direction for the National entity. It began with the employment of myself as the new CEO in April and, in line with our focus on better communications, it continued with the appointment of Ms Donna Alexander as the National Communications and Marketing Manager in September. After an external assessment of the roles and functions of each staff member, several roles were changed and realigned to our strategic plan. 2016 will see many new faces in the national office and a focus on communications, government policy and service delivery.

## Adaptive Sports

The RSL has for some time understood the long term benefits for both veterans and their families in being involved in adaptive sports. This belief has been supported by considerable research. Through events such as the Invictus Games we are able to highlight in a positive way the issues surrounding the wounded, injured and ill members of the ADF who have served their country and who are well on the road to recovery. We are proud of our competitors, and their dedication to their rehabilitation and recovery. They are an inspiration to others.

2015 saw a continued focus on Adaptive sports as we entered into an agreement with the ADF to support such events. **The RSL's commitment to support** Adaptive sports programs is a tangible way in which we can demonstrate our ongoing dedication to sustain the best interests of older and younger veterans and their families.

## Victory in the Pacific: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 15 August 2015

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs wrote to RSL National inviting the RSL to act as the national coordinator for the commemoration of this important historical event. August saw the RSL manage and host commemorations and celebrations nationwide to **showcase Australia's** involvement in the Pacific conflicts and celebrate the victory. We took great care to ensure that as many surviving WWII veterans as possible were able to attend and that their service was the focus of attention.

As well as commemorative events across the nation, a National Dinner was held in the Great Hall at the

Brisbane Exhibition & Convention Centre (Brisbane was where General McArthur headquartered). Approximately 300 guests, mostly from the ex-service community, including 15 WWII veterans from around the country, joined the Prime Minister and the US Ambassador for a celebration **of our veteran's** achievements in the Pacific theatre of war.

## RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF)

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 six month rotation basis, and to ensure that each receives the benefit of a package during his period of service, the packages are made available for delivery twice yearly. These packages are loosely referred to as the mid-year and Christmas packages.

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

Australia has large numbers of personnel serving in these overseas missions. A total of 2100 midyear packages and 2120 Christmas packages were prepared in facilities kindly made available by the Deployed Forces Support Unit within Randwick Barracks (DFSU Randwick).

RSL AFOF relies on the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in the preparation of the packages, and in particular, the contribution given by personnel from DFSU Randwick, Defence Personnel Executive in Canberra, RSL National Headquarters staff and friends of AFOF from the general community, has been greatly appreciated.



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

**SAM JACKMAN**  
Chief Executive Officer



# National Conference

The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia was held in Brisbane, Queensland on Tuesday 22 September.

A wreath laying ceremony, held the South Brisbane Memorial Park in the afternoon of 21 September, was very well attended.

The keynote speaker was Professor Sandy McFarlane AO, Director, Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies. Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and the Hon David Feeney MP, **Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs** also addressed the conference.



Keynote speaker Professor Sandy McFarlane AO

The ANZAC Peace Prize was presented to Mr Frederick Hyde AM. This Award recognised Mr Hyde's three decades of philanthropic work rescuing and educating orphaned and abandoned children in Bangladesh, and the promotion of cooperative relationships between the many diverse religious groups in that community.

The National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) delivered the opening and closing remarks.

The theme for this year's conference was 'Mental Health and the Modern Veteran', and the format involved a series of three panels - DVA, Operation K9 and Invictus Games.

This format will not only give us a better understanding of the challenges facing veterans and our modern Defence Force and, in particular, to assist us in understanding the mental and physical impact of military service on contemporary veterans, but also to identify the assistance required to continue our support to current serving members.

One of the panel sessions is about Operation K9. Operation K9 is a joint program provided by the Returned Services League SA Branch and the Royal Society for the Blind. Operation K9 dogs are provided to veterans of the ADF who have a diagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to operational service.

Panelists for these sessions of the Conference were:

- 'DVA'
  - Mr Simon Lewis PSM
  - Mr Craig Orme AM CSC
  - Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC
  - Professor Nick Saunders AO
  - Mr Doug Humphreys

- 'Operation K9'

Ms Julia Langrehr  
Ms Lindy Hennekam  
Ms Ann Spader  
Mr Peter Checkley and Ruby the Dog



- 'Invictus Games'

Brigadier Peter Gates AM CSM  
Mr Patrick Kidd  
Mr Mark Urquhart  
Mr Ben Webb

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 Robert Dick

**National Treasurer:**

Mr David Sinclair

Representatives of Overseas Ex-Service Organisations attending the Conference were:

- Mr John Smith – National Vice President  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- Mr David Moger – CEO  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association

## Functions

Conference delegates attended a Reception at Government House on 21 September, and the National Conference Dinner was held at Rydges South Bank, South Brisbane on 22 September.

## 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.

## 2016 National Conference

As 2016 marks the centenary of the first conference of **Australian Returned Soldiers' Associations at which it was resolved to form a national body to represent the interests of returned soldiers from the First World War.** The 2016 National Conference will be held in the city in which that conference was held, Melbourne.



# National Treasurer's Report

The following Financial Report addresses the audited statements for the National Office of the League for the year ended 31 December 2015.

The net result of the **year's** operations was an operating profit of \$69,058. Once the net effect of the sale of 81 Constitution Avenue is factored in, including the excision of all financial interests associated with that sale, the reported net profit was \$5,520,116. For reasons that were described in my report included in the 2014 National Annual Report this result cannot be compared to the outcome for that earlier period. However, the 2015 performance was affected, on the income side, by the continuing slow decline in capitations (membership fees), a sizeable increase in Modern Baking commissions, a contribution of \$75,000 by QLD Branch to assist the National Office in the development of the SEQUEL project, receipt of two **years'** income from the Raise-A-Glass campaign and inclusion of interest receivables stemming from the short term investment of the Proceeds of Sale of 81 Constitution Avenue maturing late January 2016. Expenses on the other hand reflected in Advertising/Publicity and Wages the impact of expanded activity in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

The bulk of the net Proceeds of Sale of the order of \$6.5 million were placed on short term deposit pending further decisions on its disbursement. Those decisions

were later taken at the November 2015 meeting of the National Board where it was agreed that the available funds be directed towards the acquisition and fit out of permanent accommodation for the National Office, with the balance - \$2.76 million - being invested to provide for future maintenance of that accommodation, including annual outgoings, future fit outs and refurbishment.

Overall, total equity for the National Office at 31 December 2015 is reported as \$8,042,073

There were no reportable changes to the financial policies of the National Office.

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 appreciation for the considerable efforts, guidance and support of the National Office staff, particularly our Accounts Officer, our online accountant and the auditor in what has continued to be a difficult period.

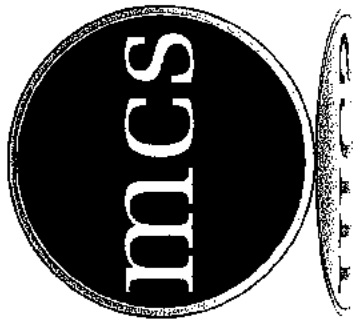
DAVID SINCLAIR  
National Treasurer



RSL National Headquarters at 81 Constitution Ave, Campbell



Artist's conceptual drawing of the site of the new RSL National Office



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

FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2015

**The Returned &  
Services League of  
Australia Ltd  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2015**

Phone 02 6215 7600  
Fax 02 6281 7708  
Address Unit 1, 37 Geils Court,  
Deakin ACT 2600  
[www.mcsaudit.com.au](http://www.mcsaudit.com.au)

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Your Directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2015.

**DIRECTORS**

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

NAME	EXPERIENCE	MEETINGS HELD	ATTENDED
K A Doolan AO	Member National Executive - 5 years, 6 months	6	6
G Edwards AM	Member National Executive - 2 year.	6	5
S Cameron	Member National Executive - 6 months	6	3
T Hanna	Member National Executive - 2 years, 6 months	6	5
D J McLachlan AO	Member National Executive - 12 years, 7 months	6	6
R Dick	Member National Executive - 1 year, 7 months	6	6
R White	Member National Executive - 9 months	6	4
P Eveille	Member National Executive - 1 year, 8 days	6	5
T Meehan	Member National Executive - 4 years	6	3

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

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

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

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

**OPERATING RESULT**

The net amount of surplus of the National Headquarters for the year ended 31 December 2015 was \$5,520,116.

**DIVIDENDS PAID**

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.

**SIGNIFICANT 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.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**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 AUDITORS AND OFFICERS**

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 in accordance with section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* for the year ended 31 December 2015 has been received and is set out on page 5.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Directors



Director



Director

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2016

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

PER SECTION 60.15 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION REGULATION 2013

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND

Principal Phillip W Miller CA  
 Address Unit 1/37 Geils Court, Deakin ACT 2600  
 PO Box 105, Deakin West ACT 2600  
 Suite 1.3, 33 Hibberson Street  
 Gungahlin ACT 2912  
 Phone (02) 6215 7600  
 Fax (02) 6281 7708  
 Web www.mcsaudit.com.au  
 ASIC Authorised Audit Company No. 408893

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
 UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES  
 AND NOT FOR PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012  
 TO THE DIRECTORS OF  
 THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
 ABN 63 008 488 097**

As lead auditor for the audit of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited for the year ended 31 December 2015, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

MCS Audit Pty Ltd

Phillip W Miller CA  
Director

Dated in Canberra on: 18 March 2016



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	NOTE	01/01/15- 31/12/15	01/07/14- 31/12/14
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue from ordinary activities	3a	1,766,434	406,719
Profit on sale of buildings		9,678,818	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>11,445,252</u>	<u>406,719</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration expenses		163,019	93,637
Employee benefits expense		755,782	385,479
Occupancy expenses		152,351	18,497
Depreciation	3b	40,096	21,644
Meeting and conference expenses		65,902	871
Insurance costs		19,364	8,995
Accounting and auditing fees		18,407	11,341
New buildings planning expenses		4,200,000	-
Other expenses from ordinary activities		510,215	357,451
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>5,925,136</u>	<u>897,915</u>
<b>(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>		<u>5,520,116</u>	<u>(491,196)</u>
<b>Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities</b>		-	-
<b>Net Surplus for Year</b>		<u>5,520,116</u>	<u>(491,196)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	NOTE	01/01/15- 31/12/15	01/07/14- 31/12/14
		\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets	4	989,671	823,170
Receivables	5	120,319	137,440
Other	6	101,673	19,441
Inventory		67	110,444
Investments	7	7,000,128	568,219
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>8,211,858</u>	<u>1,658,714</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	137,673	1,179,557
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>137,673</u>	<u>1,179,557</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>8,349,531</u>	<u>2,838,271</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	9	268,633	209,301
Provisions	10	24,255	81,325
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>292,888</u>	<u>290,626</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	11	14,571	8,795
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>14,571</u>	<u>8,795</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>307,459</u>	<u>299,421</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>8,042,072</u>	<u>2,538,850</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings	13	8,042,072	2,538,850
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>8,042,072</u>	<u>2,538,850</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

Balance at 30th June, 2014	3,030,421
Surplus for Period from 01 July 2014 to 31 December 2014	(491,196)
Prior Year Adjustments	(375)
Balance at 31 December, 2014	<u>2,538,850</u>
Balance at 1 January, 2015	2,538,850
Surplus (Loss) for Year 2015	5,520,116
Prior Year Adjustments	(16,894)
Balance at 31st December 2015	<u>8,042,072</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	01/01/15- 31/12/15	01/07/14- 31/12/14
	\$	\$
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from customers	8,317,531	602,676
Payments to employees and suppliers	(2,853,484)	(853,748)
Interest received	132,575	20,450
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>5,596,622</b>	<b>(230,622)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Payments for property, vehicle & equipment	(39,588)	(37,724)
Profit/Loss on Disposal of assets	(5,458,624)	11,331
Proceeds from sale of vehicle, plant & equipment	6,500,000	16,363
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>1,001,788</b>	<b>(10,031)</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) In Cash Held</b>	<b>6,598,410</b>	<b>(240,653)</b>
<b>Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year</b>	<b>1,391,389</b>	<b>1,632,042</b>
<b>Cash At The End Of The Financial Year</b>	<b>7,989,799</b>	<b>1,391,389</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This general purpose financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of the Australian Charities Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012. The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.

The financial report covers The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited as an individual entity. The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity under the Australian Charities Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012.

Any new Accounting Standards that have been issued but are not yet effective at balance date have not been applied in the preparation of this financial report. The possible impacts of the initial application of these Accounting Standards have not been assessed.

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

(a) Income Tax

The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is a public benevolent institution under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and is exempt from income tax.

(b) Inventories

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

(c) Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment items are recognised when their initial cost is greater than \$1,000 and are measured at cost, less (where applicable) accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from their assets.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, annually. Where applicable, the initial cost of plant and equipment assets includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to property leases taken up by the Company where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition on cessation of the lease. The estimated restoration costs are included in the value of the company's office fittings and furniture, with a corresponding provision for 'make good' recognised.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The estimated useful lives used for each class of plant and equipment assets are:

<b>Class of Plant and Equipment Asset</b>	<b>Useful Lives</b>
Buildings	45 Years
Plant and Equipment	5-13 Years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

(d) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible 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. As a not-for-profit entity, value in use, according to AASB 136 Impairment of Assets, is depreciated replacement cost. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as an impairment loss.

In the case of loans and receivables, a 'loss event' may indicate that a debtor(s) is experiencing financial difficulty and will default on payment. After having undertaken all economically viable possible measures of recovery, and it is established that the carrying amount cannot be recovered by any means, the amount will be written off. The amount will be charged to either separate allowance account used to reduce the carrying amount of financial assets impaired by credit losses, or if no impairment account was previously recognised, directly against the carrying amount of the financial asset.

(e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made in respect of liabilities for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees. These benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave entitlements.

Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits expected to be settled later than one year are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Annual leave entitlements are considered a short-term benefit as The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event the employee wishes to use their leave entitlement. This is in accordance with AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*.

The liability for short-term employee benefits is classified as current payables. The liability for long-term employee benefits is classified as non-current provisions.

Contributions are made to employee superannuation funds in compliance with government legislation and are recognised as expenses when incurred.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions.

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 Australian Taxation Office is classified as operating cash flows.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(g) Revenue Grants

*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.

(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, 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.

(i) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report are based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company.

(j) 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(l) Financial Instruments (Continued)

*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 measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*Held to maturity investments*

Where investments have fixed maturities, and it is the Company's intention to hold these investments to maturity, the investments are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*Available-for-sale financial assets*

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

*Financial liabilities*

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

(k) Leases

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

(l) Comparative Figures

Board decided to change financial year end from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> December since 2014; therefore the current period shows twelve months, and comparative shows six months.

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 in this financial statement.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

01/01/15-31/12/15 01/07/14-31/12/14 \$ \$

**NOTE 3: REVENUE**

Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses:

<b>(a) Operating Activities</b>		
Capitation Fees	777,455	257,459
Commission Received	1,551	58,024
Donations (Net of Share to States)	411,811	35,973
Royalties	3,691	32,000
Interest	132,575	20,450
Modern Baking	243,697	-
Victory in the Pacific	181,818	-
Other Revenue from Ordinary Activities	13,836	2,813
	<u>1,766,434</u>	<u>406,719</u>

**(b) Expenses**

Depreciation of Non Current Assets:		
<i>Buildings</i>	7,678	5,308
Equipment, Furniture and Fixture	6,697	3,494
Motor Vehicles	13,308	6,879
Computer Hardware and Software	12,214	5,860
Library, Plaques & RSL March	199	103
	<u>40,096</u>	<u>21,644</u>

Net Transfers to/(from) Provisions:

Employee Entitlement	(44,578)	12,145
Annual Leave	(6,716)	3,211
Long Service Leave	(51,294)	15,356
	<u>94,697</u>	<u>1,336</u>

Operating Lease Rental Expenses

Government Grant – Contributions Towards:

- National Board	-	-
- National Congress	-	-
- National President's Expenses	-	-
	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

01/01/15-31/12/15 01/07/14-31/12/14 \$ \$

**NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at Bank – General Funds	828,396	711,258
Term Deposits	161,276	111,912
	<u>989,671</u>	<u>823,170</u>

**NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES**

Trade Debtors	24,987	92,387
GST Receivable/Sundry Debtors	95,332	45,053
	<u>120,319</u>	<u>137,440</u>

**NOTE 6: OTHER CURRENT ASSETS**

Rental Bond	31,250	-
Interests Receivables	70,423	19,441
	<u>101,673</u>	<u>19,441</u>

**NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS**

Term Deposit	7,000,128	568,219
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**NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	Leasehold Land & Buildings at cost	Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures at cost	Motor Vehicles at cost	Computer Hardware & Software at cost	Library, Plaques & RSL March at cost	TOTAL
<b>Gross Carrying Amount</b>						
Balance as at 31/12/2014	1,210,396	255,047	75,775	99,848	11,877	1,652,943
Prior Year Adjustments	-	-	(151)	-	-	(151)
Additions	-	840	33,933	4,815	-	39,588
Disposals	(1,210,396)	-	(37,900)	-	-	(1,248,296)
Balance as at 31/12/2015	-	255,887	71,657	104,663	11,877	444,084

**Accumulated Depreciation**

Balance as at 31/12/2014	(181,536)	(190,544)	(14,883)	(77,196)	(9,228)	(473,387)
Prior Year Adjustments	-	-	(66)	-	-	(66)
Depreciation Expense	(7,678)	(6,697)	(13,308)	(12,214)	(199)	(40,096)
Acc. Dep. Write Back	189,214	-	17,924	-	-	207,138
Balance as at 31/12/2015	-	(197,241)	(10,333)	(89,410)	(9,427)	(306,411)

Balance as at 31/12/2015

-	58,646	61,324	15,253	2,450	137,673
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

**NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)**

During the year, The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited agreed to sell land and buildings located at Constitution Avenue, Campbell ACT for a contracted sum of \$10,700,000. As part of the sale agreement, the purchaser agreed to pay a Lease Variation Charge totalling \$4,200,000, direct to the ACT Planning Authority, which therefore resulted in sale proceeds of \$6,500,000 being received at settlement. As at the date of this report, the surplus funds are held by the Company in a term deposit with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

	01/01/15- 31/12/15 \$	01/07/14- 31/12/14 \$
Trade Creditors	32,338	1,813
Other Payables	236,295	207,488
	<u>268,633</u>	<u>209,301</u>

**NOTE 9: CURRENT PAYABLES**

Trade Creditors	1,813
Other Payables	207,488
	<u>209,301</u>

**NOTE 10: CURRENT PROVISIONS**

Annual Leave (note 12)	60,988
Long Service Leave (note 12)	20,337
	<u>81,325</u>

**NOTE 11: NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS**

Long Service Leave (note 12)	8,795
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**NOTE 12: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:

Provisions for Employee Entitlements	
Current (note 10)	81,325
Non-Current (note 11)	8,795
	<u>90,120</u>

Number of Employees (on a Full-time Equivalent Basis) at the end of the Financial Year

	5	4
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**NOTE 13: CHANGE IN EQUITY**

**Retained Earnings**

Balance at the Beginning of the Financial Year	3,030,421
Net Profit (Loss) Attributable to Members	(491,196)
Prior Year Adjustments	(375)
Balance at the end of the Financial Year	<u>2,538,850</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

**NOTE 14: REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR**

Remuneration of Auditor for:		
Auditing the Financial Report	5,400	9,900
Other Accounting Services	680	1,441
	<u>6,080</u>	<u>11,341</u>

**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.

**NOTE 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**a. Interest Rate Risk**

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

	Average Interest %	01/01/15 - 31/12/15			Total \$
		Variable Interest Rate Maturity \$	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity Less than 1 year \$	1 to 5 Years \$	
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash	1-3.85%	828,292	161,276	-	989,671
Investments	3.85%	-	7,000,128	-	7,000,128
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	24,987	24,987
		828,292	7,161,404	-	8,014,786
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accruals	0.00%	-	-	-	268,633
Employee entitlements	0.00%	-	-	-	38,826
		-	-	-	<u>307,459</u>

	Average Interest %	01/07/14 - 31/12/14			Total \$
		Variable Interest Rate Maturity \$	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity Less than 1 year \$	1 to 5 Years \$	
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash	1-3.85%	699,894	111,912	-	823,170
Investments	3.85%	-	568,219	-	568,219
Receivables	0.00%	-	-	92,387	92,387
		699,894	680,131	-	1,483,776
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accruals	0.00%	-	-	-	209,301
Employee entitlements	0.00%	-	-	-	90,120
		-	-	-	<u>299,421</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

b. Credit Risk (Continued)

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 credit worthy 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.

NOTE 17: TRUST FUNDS

(a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL Cash at bank and on deposit	417,073	01/07/14- 31/12/14 \$	383,901
(b) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	263,906		284,083
(c) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	104,121		108,757
(d) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE Cash at bank and on deposit	844,667		939,075
(e) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES Cash at bank (Bastian Plaques)	29,626		29,329
(f) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	118,771		121,647
(g) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	5,239		5,746
(h) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	423,962		397,743
(i) RSL FOUNDATION FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	364,246		333,233

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

NOTE 18: 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

	01/01/15- 31/12/15	01/07/14- 31/12/14
<b>Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities</b>		
Prior Year Adjustments	5,520,116	(491,196)
Depreciation, amortisation	(16,894)	(375)
Employee provisions	40,096	21,644
	(51,294)	15,356
<b>(Increase)/Decrease in assets</b>		
Current receivables	17,121	371,935
Inventories	110,377	6,557
Other current assets	(82,232)	(12,913)
Other current liabilities	59,332	(141,630)
<b>Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>	<u>5,596,622</u>	<u>(230,622)</u>

b. Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash - working account	989,671	823,170
Term deposits	7,000,128	568,219
	<u>7,989,799</u>	<u>1,391,389</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 \$16,363. 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 & Principal Place of Business

7-9 Geelong Street  
Fyshwick ACT 2609

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
ABN 63 008 488 097**

**Report on the financial report**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entities' declaration.

**Responsible entities' responsibility for the financial report**

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's responsibility**

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


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

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In my opinion the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year 2015 ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Name of Firm: MCS Audit Pty Ltd  
 Name of Director:   
 Phillip W Miller CA  
 Address: Unit 1/37 Geils Court, Deakin ACT 2600  
 Dated: 18 March 2016



# National Membership Report

Membership Statistics: Nationally, RSL membership at the end of 2015 was:

State	Service Members	Life, Hon Life/Life Subscribers	Affiliates	Total Members (incl. Affiliates)	% of RSL	Women's Auxiliary Members
ACT	1,286	148	159	1,593	0.93%	nil
NSW	32,051	4,620	2,042	38,713	22.66%	2,335
QLD	15,880	19,048	0	34,928	20.44%	539
SA/NT	6,214	497	5,359	12,070	7.06%	207
TAS	2,539	91	1,487	4,117	2.41%	345
VIC	28,193	539	40,670	69,402	40.62%	1,208
WA	7,704	179	2,152	10,035	5.87%	n/a
TOTAL	93,867	25,122	51,869	170,858	100.00%	4,634

In June 2015 Michael Annett, Chair of the RSL National Membership and Marketing Forum, (who is also a member of the Australian Army Reserve), was mobilised for full time service for a 12 month deployment in the Middle East. As a result, I have been asked to provide this report in his stead.

During 2015, the National Board decided to separate the Forum into two entities. The Marketing Forum will be chaired by the newly appointed National Communications & Marketing Officer, Ms Donna Alexander, and membership issues will now be **discussed/debated at each of the quarterly CEO's Forums** which will be chaired by the National CEO, Mrs Sam Jackman. The first of these meetings will take place in early 2016.

## Standard Membership Cards

The adoption of a standard format 'National' card across the States 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.

## Membership in the States

In **Western Australia** the sad loss of many WWII veteran Service Members was answered by an equally increasing number of younger ex-servicemen and women and still serving members who have served during the last 20 years. This is very encouraging and complements the ongoing strength of Affiliate growth. Membership for the year ending 31 Dec 15 is 10,035, which is an increase of nearly 1500. Whilst technology improves and online payments slowly increase, the majority of members payments are still made by cheque, cash, money order and credit card by phone. We are continuing to better develop our IT software to automate the process.

In **South Australia** & the **Northern Territory** forums were held on membership and financial awareness but it is disappointing as very few attend. More forums will be held throughout 2016 and information will be disseminated by mailing members

directly. Like WA, updates and advice of forums information is best sent directly as the ensures members feel included and receive first-hand the details of the event. Regrettably, it appears a common trend that a lot of information sent to sub-branches is not disseminated through to the membership. Many sub-branches are actively running membership drives in their areas with some success. In WA and SA a couple of our smaller country sub-branches have closed as the members age and no-one new moves into the area. SA has plans to establish a **new Women's Sub-Branch** and this will hopefully attract currently serving women to join the RSL and open the avenue for other currently serving men and women to realise the value of the RSL. **WA has had its Women's Group** for two years and the annual forum proved a great success.

**Queensland** membership has continued its decline, falling from 35,844 to 34,928. An aging demographic has regrettably seen an increase in the number of members who have passed during the year, a trend that will unfortunately continue into the near future. This decline has been countered somewhat by an increase in new younger members. Also encouraging is the number of members under the age of 50 increasing by 25%. Younger serving and ex-serving men and women need to be encouraged to not only join the RSL but to undertake active roles in our organisation.

Initiatives for moving memberships forward include: an in-depth research into the locations of future ex-service men and women; staying in contact through various communication channels; investigating loyalty programs that offer best benefit to members for differing demographics; and ensuring engagement activities are delivered through all levels of the organisation.

Membership in the **ACT** has remained steady during the year, with losses due to transfers out and bereavements being replaced by new members and transfers in. As would be the case with other States, the Branch is always seeking ways to increase membership. It is hoped that the work being undertaken in the newly created **Veterans' Support Centre** in Woden will encourage younger veterans to join the RSL in its important work to provide assistance to those in need.

In New South Wales membership has declined from 40,780 to 38,713 which has been reflective of the trend in membership over the previous decade. In order to better understand our demographics and assist with membership strategy, State Council approved the implementation of a new membership database which will give State Branch the ability to plot and monitor where membership growth is occurring and how we can best target resources to support those activities. Growth in Affiliate membership is steady since its inception in 2011 resulting in Affiliates now occupying key functionary roles within many sub-Branches.

RSL NSW is focusing on attracting serving and recently separated members of the ADF by creating and fostering relationships between sub-branches and units/ships/squadrons stationed within NSW. This has already proved fruitful for a number of sub-branches resulting in

a boost to their membership figures. In order to attract new members, RSL NSW has entered into an agreement with Member Advantage so that members can now access a wide range of discounts supplementary to their membership of RSL NSW.

In summary, 2015 has been busy year. Our priority remains to increase our engagement with current serving ADF personnel and to encourage them to join the League in its endeavours as individuals and Branches to deliver our objectives to offer support to veterans and younger ex-serving and serving men and women.

### PHIL ORCHARD

Acting Chairman  
National Membership Forum



# Communications and Marketing Report

## Introduction

As Australia's largest Ex-Services Organisation, RSL National embarked on a number of initiatives to build its profile and leverage the Centenary of ANZAC activities in 2015. Further, the RSL Centenary in 2016 is an opportunity to refresh the communications and marketing strategy and awareness of its 100 years of community service with the Australian public.

In September 2015, Donna Alexander started in the role of RSL National Communications and Marketing Manager. The focus has been on preparing for the Centenary celebrations in 2016 by enhancing existing communications channels and implementing new social media channels. Since implementing Facebook, Twitter and Instagram audiences have grown by 300% each month.

## RSL Documentary

The key objective is to position the RSL as evolving to meet the needs of veterans of all ages and their families. A major initiative linked to this message was co-ordinating the production of the RSL Documentary "Coming Home". This project gave unprecedented access to a documentary film crew to reveal some of the extraordinary stories of veterans and serving personnel transitioning from Defence to civilian life.

This is a visible way for RSL to mark the start of its centenary and help a broader audience understand the value of the services provided by State and Sub-branches. The feedback received via social media, letters and calls has been overwhelmingly positive. In particular it has challenged and changed some of the old perceptions and stereotypes around the RSL and veterans. The program will be replayed on ANZAC Day 2016 and up to four times this year by Channel 9.

## RSL Corporate Partnerships

The RSL brand attracts many corporate partners and this year a charity partnership with Cricket Australia was accepted. This partnership will run throughout the Centenary of ANZAC and provide many opportunities to raise the profile of the RSL.

### *Military Bank*

In December 2015, RSL met with Military Bank to evaluate the success of the RSL Money program that was launched in late 2014. Based on the results it was decided to refine the business model to extend the benefits to State and sub-branches that use the products.

### *Cricket ACT*

In October 2015, RSL National and ACT branch participated in the Prime Minister's XI cricket match. This raised funds for the new Veterans' Support Centre at Woden. The Prime Minister and Australian and New Zealand Captains signed items for RSL National to use for additional fundraising in 2016.

### *Cricket Australia*

In November 2015, RSL National with the generous assistance of 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Brisbane, raised funds at the First Test at the Gabba. The funds raised went to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund and established an events model that can be expanded in 2016. We are in discussions with Cricket Australia to hold Remembrance Test matches around the country in November.



RSL National President, Ken Doolan and Cr. Andrew Wines joined the Australian and New Zealand Cricket captains at a wreathlaying ceremony at the Shrine, Brisbane.

## RSL Centenary Products

Due to the recognition of the RSL brand and work to raise its profile, the number of requests to develop national programs has grown. RSL National has engaged a global licencing agent, TLA Worldwide to manage the sourcing of licencing arrangements that allow the RSL logo to be used by selected partners.

A limited edition range of Centenary products will be released throughout 2016. This will return royalties to National and State offices, support ANZAC and Poppy Day Appeals and deliver benefits such as discounts to RSL members. The funds will enable the RSL to continue to expand support to veterans and meet emerging needs, particularly around health and wellbeing for younger veterans.

### *Centenary Coins*

In late 2015 the agreement for RSL Centenary Coins being issued by The Perth Mint was finalised. A range of limited edition commemorative coins will be released on 1 March 2016. In a separate arrangement the Royal Australian Mint will partner with RSL to launch its new charity coin program towards the end of 2016.



\$1 silver coin



\$25 gold coin

### Centenary Stamp

Work progressed with Australia Post to decide on the final design for the RSL Centenary Stamp. The stamp will be released by Australia Post in May 2016. It will be packaged with the bronze RSL Centenary coin issued by The Perth Mint and a limited edition RSL Centenary medallion.



### Centenary Book

The RSL Centenary Book is being published by Harper Collins and will be a coffee table style book. It is being authored by John Gatfield and Richard Landells. The release date is late 2016 and the potential to package the book with the RSL Documentary DVD is being explored.

### ANZAC Matches

Discussions have commenced with the Australian Football League (AFL) and National Rugby League (NRL) regarding the support and branding that could be offered for the matches played around ANZAC Day to RSL. The goal is for the RSL Centenary logo can be featured on the jerseys **of more teams than last year's season and to leverage** player support for pre-promotional activities. This will help generate greater awareness of the brand, our centenary and the benefits of donating to RSL ANZAC Appeal.

### Social Media

To ensure that RSL National communicates with a large and younger audience we engaged a social media consultant to establish new channels and a website. These tools will help to market the work of the organisation and enable two-way conversations with veterans and their families. In the last three months of 2015 these audiences grew by 325%.

Opening this communication channel has provided feedback and ideas for the way the RSL can deliver services in the future and attracted a younger audience. These new channels provide RSL with the opportunity to market its new programs, products and services such as its Centenary coins with The Perth Mint.

All social media channels will be integrated with the new RSL National website. This will create a platform to release information about the RSL and enable our audiences to provide feedback. The composition of the social media audiences are:

- Facebook – 50% female and 50% male with the largest group being 35-44 years of age
- Twitter – 32% female and 68% male with 88% seeking Business and News information
- Instagram – largest group of followers is young male serving members.

### National President's Newsletter

In October 2015, the National President's Newsletter was updated with a new layout and content. The publication has received positive comments through traditional media channels and represented an opportunity to expand its contents to gain more support. It was also decided that it would be published on a more frequent and regular schedule. The Newsletter is released on the last Friday of every month via the RSL National website.

The publication has been expanded to feature stories from every State and Territory. **Each month's** Newsletter is themed to showcase the work of the RSL across Australia on a particular cause. For example, November 2015 issue focussed on Remembrance Day activities and the tireless work of our volunteers on the Poppy Appeal.

**The National President's Newsletter is only available online and this is working well.** Each month's release is promoted via the social media channels to direct readers to the new edition. Once these channels are integrated RSL National will be able to track the number of readers.

### Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) Activities

RSL AFOF is used to purchase the items that go into care packages that are sent to Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Peacekeeping Forces (APF) that are deployed overseas. These packages are sent twice a year – around June and November. The mid-year delivery was sponsored by the NRL and Cricket Australia conducted a fundraising match in November for the next mid-year delivery.



In October 2015, RSL AFOF purchased \$9,000 worth of musical instruments and equipment that was sent to personnel based in the Middle East. This included guitars, cymbals, microphones and a new mixer. The donated equipment allows those who have an interest in music to unwind and briefly escape the hardships of their deployment. It also lifts the moral and offers a rare social occasion for all to enjoy when the band performs.

In 2016, RSL will work to lift the profile of this activity as it resonates with the younger veteran and connects serving members with the RSL.



## National Marketing Forum

The marketing representatives from all States and Territories have created a monthly National Marketing Forum to help share ideas and take advantage of national opportunities. This group looks at ideas that are presented by corporate partners for promotions with benefits for the RSL. The Forum is an opportunity for marketing peers to share ideas and coordination efforts to maximise the exposure of national programs such as the RSL Documentary and Centenary products and activities.

In late 2015 a pipeline of potential corporate partners was presented by TLA Worldwide to the group for consideration. A presentation will be given by TLA after the first meeting to go into the opportunities that are of interest and set guidelines on how the partnership may work.



Graduation day for the first group of Op K9 dogs, as seen on the RSL documentary 'Coming Home'.



The RSL ACT was a Charity Partner at 2015 Floriade. At the reflection wall, visitors could make a donation to place a poppy on the display. The money raised went to the RSL ACT's community work.

## RSL 100<sup>th</sup> National Conference

In late 2015, planning started for the RSL National 100<sup>th</sup> Conference that will be held on 6 June 2016 at the Sofitel on Collins, in Melbourne. The final arrangements with the venue were completed in December to enable online registrations to commence on 1 January 2016. **A proposed theme of "RSL the Next 100 Years" to guide the program of events on the day.**

The Shrine of Remembrance was also booked for the wreath-laying ceremony on 5 June 2016. Several corporate partners have expressed interest in participating in the Conference and having exhibition stands in the foyer. These will be negotiated in early 2016 to ensure that the information presented is of benefit to Conference delegates.

### DONNA ALEXANDER

Communications & Marketing Manager



Packing RSL AFOF parcels ready for dispatch to ADF personnel on deployment.



# National Trustee's Report

## Introduction

It is with considerable pleasure that I write this report especially to highlight the many areas where grants from the National Trusts have been able to assist veterans and others and to highlight in the public domain, the good work of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL).

It is alarming however, that with the paucity of donations to the National Trusts over several years and the continuing very low interest rates, each of the National Trusts is losing its comparative capital value and standing against inflation. These circumstances bring into question their viability in perpetuity and the continuance of their grants at beneficial levels.

## Membership

The National Trustees during 2015 were:

Mr John Sheldrick OAM (Chairman)  
The Hon Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM  
Mr Brian Loftus RFD  
Mr Gary Lancaster  
Major General Paul Stevens AO (Retd)  
Mr Jock Statton OAM  
Brigadier Iain Macinnis AO (Retd)  
Mr Peter Collas

The Committee was ably assisted at each meeting by Mr Peter Eveille as the representative of the National Board, Mt David Sinclair as National Treasurer and Mrs Jan Ormerod as Secretary. The Committee is most appreciative of the advice and assistance from each of these people. Mr Derek Roylance AM and Mr Gary Brodie OAM retired from the Committee at the end of their term of appointment in February and March 2015, respectively. They were sincerely thanked for their considerable contribution to the considerations of the Committee over many years.

## RSL and 6<sup>th</sup> Division Australian Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund

The Fund again provided two scholarships, each of \$3,250, for award in Crete in 2015 to deserving scholars commencing their tertiary education. These scholarships are held in high regard in Australia and Greece as representative of the strong and enduring ties between the Australian and Greek peoples forged in war.

The Fund also continued its grant of \$1000 to the Bishop of Spili's Fund. As a result from a query of the Trustees, the Australian Ambassador in Greece advised that the **annual grant to the Bishop of Spili's Fund was appropriate and continued not only as a token of Australian /Greek relations but was much appreciated.**

In view of the limited earnings of the Fund, the money to meet these grants was provided from both the capital and the earnings of the Fund.

The Trustees are very appreciative of the interest and help in the presentation of these scholarships and grant by the Australian Ambassador in Greece and his staff.

## The RSL Jubilee Commemorative Fund

The Trustees are pleased to report on the wide ranging grants made from this Fund which continues in an enduring manner, to reflect and celebrate the RSL 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year. The Fund from its inception has looked to assisting those beyond the RSL membership and **continues to do so in accordance with members' wishes** from 1966.

During 2015 the Fund continued to provide grants to a wide range of recipients.

- **Medical Student Exchanges.** The Fund maintained its grant of \$10,000 together with a grant from the PNG Wally Lussick fund of \$5000 to support the exchange of medical students between Australia, and each of Vietnam, Fiji and New Guinea as arranged through the University of Sydney Northern Medical School and the Hoc Mai Foundation. Students who received these grants gave glowing reports on the benefits they received through their exchanges.
- **RSL Scholarships.** The Fund again supported the grant of \$4,000 each for two scholarships to dependent children through the Australian Veterans **Children's Assistance Trust (AVCAT) arrangements.** The Fund also provided grants for second and third year studies of earlier recipients. The total call on the Fund to support these RSL Scholarships is therefore \$24,000 per year plus administrative costs to AVCAT. It has been a pleasure during the year to hear from students involved and their families of how the scholarships have assisted them and to learn of their continuing good progress.
- **Reg Saunders Scholarships.** The Fund awarded one scholarship of \$2000 in 2015 to an indigenous student studying at the Bachelor Institute Northern Territory. It is expected that the recipient, after graduation, will use the benefits of their education within indigenous communities. The Trustees are grateful to the staff of the Bachelor Institute in recommending appropriate awardees and assisting in the local administration of the grant.
- **Kapyong Scholarships.** The Trustees were again pleased to provide a grant of \$US2,760. to assist students studying at the Gapeyong Middle School in South Korea. The Trustees are again grateful for the assistance of the Australian Military Attaché in Seoul for assisting in the presentation and administration of these grants in South Korea. The Attaché has advised that in all 9 students from the Middle School were able to be assisted. The scholarships continue to be well received and to enhance Australian/South Korean relations. A substantial element of the grant comes from the Funds sub-accounts provided from funds

transferred to the RSL by the Trustees of the wound up Australian Korea Society (ACT) and Australian Korea War Memorial Trust.

- **RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships.** A grant of K20,770 (approximately \$9,000) was made to the Port Moresby Grammar School to assist two financially disadvantaged but academically capable PNG students to complete their year 12 studies at the School. The Trustees are grateful for the assistance from the Principal of the Port Moresby Grammar School and the RSL Port Moresby Sub Branch in the recommendation of suitable students and the local administration of these grants.
- **RSL New Guinea Campaign Tertiary Scholarship.** For 2 years now it has proven too difficult to select a suitable student to receive this scholarship and as a result the trustees have declined to offer this scholarship in future. The assistance of the RSL Port Moresby Sub-Branch is appreciated in coming to this decision.

### Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund

Following its most successful inauguration in 2014 a grant of \$350 was made in 2015 for presentation to a high achieving nurse attending the University of Canberra Nursing School at the completion of their year one studies. The sum of \$350 represents the total earning of the Fund for the year.

### Mountbatten Fund

The earnings of this Fund are transferred each year to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League (RCEL) as a contribution to the work of the RCEL among veterans and their dependants from disadvantaged countries who have served in war in support of the British Commonwealth. A sum of \$4,000 was granted in 2015.



Chairman, John Sheldrick and the recipient of the RSL Travelling Scholarship to Fiji

### RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Australia Trust

The Trustees resolved to grant \$34,000 from the earnings of the Trust to RSL National Headquarters against welfare costs incurred by the Headquarters as certified by the National CEO.

### RSL Foundation

It is pleasing to note 9 donations to the Foundation during the year. Each donation was most appreciated. The Foundation has helped to maintain the level of grants made on behalf of the RSL & 6th Division Australian-Hellenic Educational Memorial Fund this year when the earnings of the latter Fund were limited due to interest rates and declining comparative capital in the Fund.

### Consolidation

The Trustees have over the past few years or so taken positive steps to recommend to the National Board the wind up those funds no longer applicable and where possible to consolidate other funds. As a result two funds were wound up in 2015.

- **VC and Historic Medals Trust** was wound up during 2015. All remaining assets were transferred to the Australian War Memorial as required in the Wind-Up clause of the Trust.
- **RSL Welfare and Disaster Fund** was wound up in 2015 with all proceeds being transferred to the RSL Foundation. The actual transfer of money to the RSL Foundation account is delayed on advice from the National Treasurer, until immediately after the **Fund's term deposits become due in April 2016.**

**JOHN SHELDRIK**  
Chairman



Chairman, John Sheldrick makes the presentation of the donation to the Bishop of Spili's Fund



# National Veterans' Affairs Report

The National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC) is charged with advising the National Board on all matters pertaining to assistance and care of serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

Membership of the committee is drawn from all States and Territories as nominated by the respective State President/Board.

Committee members for 2015 were:

Mr John Hodges	Chair
Hon Graham Edwards	WA & Deputy Chair
Mr John McCourt	WA
Mr Peter Ryan	QLD
Ms Robyn Collins	NSW
Messrs Peter Collas	ACT
Mr Jim Gilchrist	ACT
MAJGEN David McLachlan	VIC
Mr Jeff Jackson	VIC
Mr Alex Dick	TAS
Ms Jackie Morris	SA/NT
Mr Mickey Michaelis	Secretary

## 2015 National Congress

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

### 1. Disability Pension

That the Government revoke the decision contained in the DVA Federal Budget 2014-2015 Budget Papers which backdates the disability pension paid under the **Veterans' Entitlement Act (VEA) will be from the date of claim and not the 3 months prior to the date of effect (Section 20).**

### 2. Carers Support

**That the Department of Veterans' Affairs initiate changes to the Veterans' Entitlement Act and the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act to adequately provide social, financial and emotional support to the Carers of Younger (Contemporary) Veterans.**

### 3. Veterans' Legal Aid

That the Legal Aid scale of payment for solicitors and barristers representing Veterans at the AAT and Federal Court be increased to reflect current rates for appearances.

### 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' 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 Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).**

### 6. Income Support Payments

That the Government legislate that the following payments to Veterans are administered and paid by DVA on behalf of the Department of Human Services:

- Carers Allowance
- Newstart Allowance
- Disability Support Pension

### 7. 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.**

### 8. Additional Resources for the improved Management of Mental Health

That the Government provides additional resources (Financial) for the improved management of the mental health issues of the serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

### 9. 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.

### 10. Special Rate of Pension

**That Section 24 (g) (i) of the Veterans' Entitlement Act be amended to remove the necessity for an eligible Veteran to work for the same person (company).**

### 11. Hearing Aids

**That the Department of Veterans' Affairs allow Safety Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (SRCA) clients with an unserviceable hearing aid, provided under 'reasonable cost', access to the same quality & cost replacement hearing aid.**

## National Veterans' Affairs Committee Meetings

Meeting summaries of NVAC meetings are now on the RSL National Website. This allows 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, the National Board, fellow members of NVAC and the staff at National Headquarters for their continued support and guidance throughout the year. A special mention to our long serving NVAC Secretary, Micky Michaelis, who retired at the end of the year.

JOHN HODGES

National Veterans' Affairs Advisor



Hospital visits are an important part of veteran welfare



CEO Sam Jackman visits the Sydney Northern Beaches Veterans Centre



ACT Veterans' Centre yoga session held during Veterans' Health Week

# National Defence Committee Report

Following the National headquarters move into the new temporary location, the Defence Committee started 2015 with an agreement to increase meeting frequency to two monthly intervals, starting in February. This meeting frequency will continue into 2016.

## White Paper

The February meeting kicked off 2015 with an excellent outline of the White Paper process by the three senior Defence officials heading up the White Paper and Force Structure teams – Marc Ablong, AVM Neil Hart and Neil Orme. They emphasised the uncertainty in the global environment with the past reliance on a rules-based order increasingly under pressure. They also pointed out that the 2015 White Paper will be closer to the format of the 2000 publication than either the 2009 or 2013 papers, with the Government being more prescriptive in the tasks it expects of Defence.

The process is expected to be much more integrated than previously, with their intention to clearly link force structure with strategy. They explained how Government involvement is being managed through a series of papers that are progressively approved by the National Security Committee. Those issue papers addressed:

- The overall plan for the White Paper;
- The strategic environment out to 2035;
- Defence policy settings;
- The US alliance;
- Force structure options, including enabling capabilities;
- Defence Industry;
- Revised force structure following feedback from government;
- The budgetary situation;
- Naval shipbuilding;
- The overall summary of what the paper aims to cover; and finally
- The draft White Paper itself

The White Paper has now been released by Government and **The RSL's policy advisor is completing an** analysis for the board.

## First Principles Review

**The committee's May meeting focussed on the First Principles Review** into the Defence Organisation. The Committee discussed the RSL submission on the review and was privileged to have MAJGEN Paul Symon, a senior military officer on the First Principles Review team, as guest speaker.

General Symon gave a general overview of the Review framework, processes and recommendations, and included a brief on the membership on the Review Team, the Review Terms of Reference, the Secretariat process

and the implementation of the Review recommendations.

He advised that of the 76 recommendations made in the Review, 75 were accepted by Government. The Government did not agree to the recommendation relating to the Defence Science and Technology Organisation becoming part of the new Capability and Acquisition Group at this time. However, it has explicitly stated that this recommendation will be further considered as part of the annual updates on implementation progress.

During his address, General Symon listed the following as some of the key recommended actions following the release of the Review:

- That this Review be adopted as the road map for Defence reform for the next 5 years;
- The advantages of retention of the diarchy;
- Amendments to the Defence Act to formally recognise the authority of the CDF and VCDF, including removing the statutory authority of the Service Chiefs.
- Changes will reduce duplication of administrative processes and address a minor legal anomaly to more clearly define the authority between the CDF and the Service Chiefs:
  - Chiefs will still exercise full command of their Services (the raise, train and sustain responsibilities) under the direction of the CDF;
  - The Commonwealth table of precedence remains unchanged;
  - Remuneration of the Service Chiefs will be set by Defence Remuneration Tribunal.
  - **The Service Chiefs' right of access to the Minister will remain unequivocal, with the notification of the CDF.**
- It is expected that the amendment to the Defence Act will be tabled in the spring session of parliament **but probably won't be finalised until the autumn** session next year.
- Disbanding of Capability Development Group (return of responsibilities and functions to the Service Chiefs) and DMO will be brought back under the direct umbrella of Defence.
- Change in responsibilities for the VCDF.

The new Capability and Sustainment Group (CASG) continues to mature. Following the appointment of ex Boeing CEO Kim Gillis as the new Deputy Secretary, other appointments include retired USN RADM Steve Johnson as the new GM submarines, Mr Alan Nichol (ex UK) as the First Assistant Secretary Naval Surface Combatants, ex Head Helicopter Systems, RADM Tony Dalton, as Head Joint Systems (previously Electronic Systems) and MAJGEN Andrew Mathewson in Dalton's previous role as Head Helicopter Systems. On April 1 2016 the Capability Development Group was disbanded, with the environmental branches returning to the control of the Capability Managers (Service Chiefs) and the joint functions going into VCDF's area.

## Joint Strike Fighter

The Committee's June meeting focussed on the JSF program with the JSF Program Manager, AVM Chris Deeble, as guest speaker and giving a detailed briefing to the committee on progress of the program. During his presentation, Air Vice Marshal Deeble highlighted the following points:

- What he expected to be the program outcomes
- The Aircraft from a capability perspective
- What he sees as complexity factors and issues
  - Concurrent development, production and sustainment
  - Production rate at point of ramp-up
  - Program remains technically challenging
  - Complex test and evaluation program
  - Affordability (acquisition and sustainment)
  - Global Sustainment is still being defined
  - Establishing the foundation for integration into the Air Force and the ADF
- The aircraft is designed for multi-Service use
- It has a multi mission capability
- The first aircraft with truly Integrated mission systems
- It is the most stealthy aircraft flying
- CTOL (the USAF and RAAF variant) weapon load out
- F-35 technical challenges
- Australian industry
  - imperatives
  - performance
  - change to Australian industry business model
  - ensuring skillsets are maintained in the aerospace industry
  - opportunities
- Transition into Service timeline
- Australian sovereign sustainment
- The cyber threat

## Defence Capability

The Defence Budget, released as part of the Federal budget tabled in May, again provided an increased amount for Defence to \$31.9B, up from the \$29.1B tabled in the 2014 budget. Of that amount, approximately \$750M was set aside for funding of Middle East operations. While a flat or slightly reduced Defence budget is expected for the 2016/17 fiscal year, the forward estimates show the budget starts increasing again from 2017/18 onwards, with the 2% GDP target in 2024 still intact. The four year forward estimates show a total Defence forecast spend of \$132.6B, an increase of \$9.9B on the previous forward estimates period.

Now that both of the Navy's LHDs, HMAS Canberra and HMAS Adelaide have been commissioned, HMAS Tobruk has been decommissioned, leaving the two LHDs and HMAS Choules as the RAN's amphibious fleet. Tenders for the Pacific Patrol Boat program and the Navy's new Oilers are under evaluation.

The other major surface ship programs – the Armidale Class Patrol Boat replacement and the Future Frigate program - were announced as part of the Prime Minister's statement made in Adelaide in August, where he committed the Government to support the SA based ship building industry. The White Paper has since confirmed a total of 12 Off-shore Patrol Vessels (including an Armidale replacement) would commence construction in 2018 followed by the construction of 9 future frigates (ANZAC replacement) commencing in 2020. A Competitive Evaluation Process (CEP) is underway for both programs.

The Future Submarine Program continues to be in the news. The design brief has been completed and action to select a designer from the announced shortlist of TKMS, DCNS and the Japanese MHI shipyard is underway. Nine options were put to Government (three build options for each of the three competitors) for between eight and twelve vessels with bids submitted at the end of November 2015. A limited tender has also been issued to LM and Raytheon to select a combat system integrator, with this selection being made before the Design partner is selected. Following the selection of a design partner, Defence expects a 2 to 3 year design activity to fully determine capability/cost/schedule/risks. The only Commonwealth mandated equipment at this stage is the AN/BYG-1 Combat System and the Mark 48 torpedo.

The project schedule means that a Service Life Extension for the COLLINS Class submarines will be necessary to ensure that a Submarine Capability Gap does not occur.

On the land front, the RFT for Land 400 Phase 2, the 100 vehicle ASLAV replacement is under evaluation with at least three teams – Rhinemetall, GD Land Systems/Thales and BAE Systems – responding, and that was followed that up later in the year with an RFI for Land 400 Phase 3 for 345 Infantry Fighting Vehicles. The government has selected Thales' Hawkei Vehicle for the Land 121 Phase 4 for 1100 Light Protected Vehicles. The Government has also signed off on JP 2072 Phase 2 Battlefield Communications for the Army.

The first two of the 10 C27Js to replace the Caribou capability arrived in country in June and the government has taken delivery of two more C17s to take the total to eight. The first of the RAAF's F18G 'Growler' aircraft has also been handed over in the US. Defence has also selected the Lockheed Martin/Pilatus team for the long awaited ADF Fixed Wing Flying Training System to replace the current CT4/PC9 training capability.

## ADF operations

In August, Chief of Joint Operations, VADM David Johnston, briefed the committee on current operations. The ADF's operational tempo continues to remain high. Air Force F18s, Wedgetail AEW&C aircraft and KC30 tankers are operating in support of the air campaign against Daesh, while a 500 strong Army training team are on the ground in Iraq helping to train that nation's armed forces. There are still around 400 personnel still in Afghanistan and an RAN vessel continues to be deployed on anti-piracy operations near the Horn of Africa.



## Geopolitical Issues

Perhaps the most challenging geopolitical issue in **Australia's** nearer region is the substantial Chinese land reclamation issue in disputed areas of the South China Sea. More recently, China has increased tensions with rumoured deployments of Aircraft and surface to air missiles. US rhetoric has increased in recent months and US forces have been asserting their right of freedom of the air and sea over these areas. Regional claimants **have also been more vocal in protesting China's** activities. The Australian Government has supported these protests and continues to have P3s and Naval ships conduct normal operations in the South China Sea.

From a more global perspective, Russia followed up its actions in the Crimean Peninsula with a large deployment into Syria, the first deployment outside the old Soviet Union boundaries since 1989. While ostensibly directed against ISIS, it appears more intent on attacking US backed forces and propping up the Assad regime. A recent cease fire, declared to enable humanitarian aid into besieged Syrian enclaves, seems to have been at least partially effective.

The Iran nuclear deal has reached agreement with EU nations and the US Administration although there will be challenges in getting US congressional and senate approval.

## Committee Membership

### Chairman

AVM Alan Titheridge AO (Retd)

### Deputy Chair/Board Representative

Mr Peter Eveille

### Members

Associate Professor Anthony Bergin

MAJGEN Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (Retd)

MAJGEN Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

BRIG Stephen Dunn AM (Retd)

BRIG John Essex-Clark DSM (Retd)

MAJGEN Ian Flawith AO CSC

AM Doug Riding AO DFC (Retd)

CDRE Terry Roach AM JP RAN (Retd)

VADM Russ Shalders AO CSC RANR

BRIG John Sheldrick OAM (Retd)

### Ex-Officio

RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)

Mrs Sam Jackman

Mrs Jan Ormerod

Ms Lisa Geraghty

National President

National CEO

Committee Secretary

Nat. Policy Advisor

## ALAN TITHERIDGE

Chairman



F-35 Joint Strike Fighter



Australia's first new LHDs



Hawkei Light Protected Vehicle

# Defence Personnel & Families Committee Report

## Committee Role

The RSL National Defence Personnel and Families Committee (DPFC) is an advisory committee supporting the President and the National Board in their effort to maintain and improve the welfare and conditions of service of ADF Members and their families. The **committee's strength comes from its range** of people with long experience in the ADF and supporting organisations, and **from members' implicit collective** links to other ex-service organisations. This allows the committee to speak with a stronger and collective voice by forming a considered and informed view on issues affecting current and past members of the ADF and their families.

The DFPC provides advice on matters tasked and self-referred, seeks to be pro-active on matters in its area of responsibility, and seeks opportunities to engage RSL members and others in the Australian community through expanded communications channels. We maintain a strong interest in a range of issues affecting, or potentially affecting current, past and future members of the ADF and their families, allowing the RSL to make informed and considered representations to Government, others involved in the health and welfare of those who serve in the ADF, and those who support them.

The committee focuses on contemporary defence personnel and family issues, accepts specific tasks by the National Board and the National President and also self-tasks as appropriate within its areas of responsibility. Accordingly, the DFPC has moved from a role that responded to issues raised by RSL members to one that looks pro-actively at wider issues drawn from our collective memberships.

## Issues under Watch

Matters of import that the DPFC monitor include:

- Government ensuring that forces are of sufficient size and resilience so that the burden of high operational tempo, both in garrison and on deployment is managed fairly.
- Service demands that the member be healthy and fit for service be accompanied by a speedy and efficient health and welfare system to allow the member to render service.
- Maintaining a properly-trained and remunerated Reserve to maintain current commitments and future contingencies.
- ADF remuneration reflecting the unique nature of defence service.
- Compensation and rehabilitation for those damaged in the course of ADF service be provided wherever and whenever caused.
- **Veterans' Disability Pensions be fair and equitable.**
- The special needs of ADF families not faced by other families in the community be assisted by means of housing, health, and other support policies that reflect these needs.
- Service personnel be entitled to the same rights and protections under the Constitution as other Australians.

- Superannuation for reserve force members
- Reform of DFRT and pay-setting for the ADF

## DPFC Activity

The DFPC has structured each quarterly meeting around a single theme (but not excluding other matters as they arise or are referred). During the reporting period these were as follows.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| February | We focused on superannuation and the proposed sale of Defence Housing Authority. We were briefed on the new ADF Super scheme by Colonel Brendan Stevens, Director Military Remuneration.   |
| April    | We focused on DVA support to ADF serving members, and issues associated with those ADF members transitioning from fulltime service. We were briefed by Major General Craig Orme AM CSC AM (Retd), Deputy President, Repatriation Commission      |
| August   | We focused on DFRT Reform & ADF Pay Setting Arrangements.  |
| November | We focused on conditions of service issues, and those issues associated with personnel retention. We were briefed by Air Vice-Marshal Tony Needham AM, Head People Capability who addressed the retention measures being implemented by Defence. |

## Issues pursued during the year

- Proposed sale of Defence Housing Australia
- Mess standards
- Removal of Regimental Medical Officers
- Homeless veterans
- Vacation of DHA homes on death of Member
- Personnel Wastage
- Defence & DVA Survey into Transition and Wellbeing
- Adaptive Sports Programs
- DFRT Reform & ADF Pay Setting Arrangements
- RARA submission to Senate Mental Health Inquiry
- Transition and Resettlement
- Invictus Games
- Gallipoli Medical Research
- Civil qualifications from Defence service

## Summary

The committee has drawn issues from its members who bring to the committee the interests of their own constituencies. This eclectic approach allows for a more coordinated response through the RSL Board to Government and also serves to build a level of cooperative action that had not been present to the degree we have now achieved. Cooperative action is now occurring in the preparation of RSL submissions, and our work is also informing that of others in the Ex-Service Community.

## Committee Members

Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC (Retd)  
Mr Terry Meehan  
Mr Peter Eveille  
Major General Hori Howard AO MC ESM (Retd)  
Commodore Syd Lemon AM RANR  
Legatee Charles Wright AM  
Mrs Robyn Ritchie  
LCDR Ernst Power RANR  
Mrs Anne Pahl  
Mr Darren McMannus-Smith OAM JP  
Ms Lisa Geraghty  
Mr Les Bienkiewicz  
Mrs Meg Green RN RM Orth. Cert. MN  
Mrs Jan Ormerod

## Ex-Officio Members

Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)  
Mrs Sam Jackman

Chairman/RAAF Association  
Deputy Chairman (until May 2015)  
Deputy Chairman (from Aug 2015)  
RAR Association  
Assistant DFRT Advisor  
Legacy  
Defence Families Australia  
Naval Association  
RSL VIC  
RSL NSW  
RSL National Policy Advisor/DFRT Advisor  
DFWA  
**War Widows' Guild of Australia**  
Secretary

National President  
RSL CEO (from April 2015)

PETER McDERMOTT  
Chairman



The RSL recognises the increasing importance of looking after the wellbeing of Defence families.





# 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.

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.

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.

In 2013 the Trustees entered into an agreement to provide the Reg Saunders Scholarship through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory. This year the Trustees agreed to provide an additional annual grant of \$2000 through the Institute.

## Captain Saunders

Captain Reginald Walter Saunders MBE, a member of the Gunditjmarra 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 Gunditjmarra, had fought many battles with the white settlers in trying to retain their land.

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



Captain Reg Saunders MBE(C)

**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 2015 Recipient

The 2015 Reg Saunders Scholarship was awarded to Ms Mollena Getawan.

# RSL Awards

## Meritorious Service Medal

### ACT

PAULGA, J

### NSW

BUBB, I L  
GARRETT, E R E

RUSHBY, N J  
RYSON, R K

STEPHENSON, B I  
WOOD, D B

### QLD

EATON, S C  
CRONIN, D J

### SA

FARRUGIA, C

HORNE, K R

PARTRIDGE, L W

POLLARD, C C

### VIC

FORBES, B

FORBES, J

HALL, B

WEBB, L

## Life Membership

### ACT

DINHAM, P M

### NSW

BARKLEY, H A  
BECK, B L  
BLACK, J R  
BLISSETT, R J  
BURNET, I J  
CARRUTHERS, M  
CLARK, R A  
COWGILL, N  
DAVIS, L  
DAVIS, W S  
DODDS, R J  
DUFFY, F C  
FARROW, S R  
FERGUSON, M L  
FINLAY, J M  
FISH, A E

GILLETT, M A  
GODDE, T R  
HATCHWELL, M I  
HAYDON, R E  
HENDERSON OAM  
RFD, E E  
HIBBERT, K H  
HOSCHKE, B  
HUEKE, M  
HUTCHINGS, A G  
INGRAM, J C  
JAMES, J C  
JERVIS, A G  
LEE, N M  
LEE, L  
LEEDOW, R J

LETTS MVO, R J  
LEVY OAM, W E  
LLOYD, J W  
LOCKHART, R D  
MANION, P  
McDONALD, B  
McFARLANE, P R  
MORGAN, M  
OLSEN, J O  
PANKHURST, B D  
PASCO, R P  
PETERS-SMITH, R T  
RATCLIFF, D J  
RAWLINS, J B  
RICE, P M  
RICHARDS, J D

ROWE, P J  
RUTHERFORD, T  
SLATYER, C W  
STEPHENS, B L  
STICKENS, W  
TAIT OAM, D  
TAYLOR, B R  
TOOSE, R T  
WALLACE, D  
WALSH, B  
WATSON, C S  
WESTWOOD, P C  
WRATTEN, T H  
ZAVATTARO, C M

### QLD

RIXON, G J  
WOODWARD, G J

### SA

BURNS, W R  
JOSEPHS, W E

LATHLEAN, P H D  
LONGBOTHAM, A G

MAYNARD, L H  
SHERLOCK, M P

WILLIAMS, V

### TAS

CHAPMAN, H G

LUTTRELL, K

RAMSAY, R N

WALKER, K R

## VIC

AKELL, W  
BANNISTER, M  
BROWN, K  
CLARKE, J  
CLARKE, J  
CRAIG, M  
CROCKER, D

DUNCAN, J  
FARROW, M  
FAY, J  
FRANSER, P  
FUNSTON, R  
GILROY AM, D  
GRIERSON, D

HAWRYLUK, M  
HOCKING, R  
JACKSON OAM, J  
LAWES, B  
LESAR, P  
MOLLER OAM RFD ED, J  
MURPHY, T

POLKINGHORNE, G  
SCOTT, T  
SHEA, E  
STEWART, R  
THORNE, M  
TUCKER, K  
WHITE, K

## WA

BREMNER, P  
BUTLER, P A

CHING, C  
HARROWER, G B

PARISH, K J  
THOMSON, J M

TISDALE, E K

## Honorary Life Membership

### VIC

ARENDSE, B  
CAIRNS, B

FITZGIBBON, D

GORMAN, Marj

PRATT, Fred

## Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

### NSW

BAILEY, D  
BAKER, S O  
BATES, L D  
CAMPBELL, J L

CLIFFORD, A M  
COOKE, D  
COOLAHAN, N  
COOPER, W J

CRUGER, M G  
FENWICK, M  
GOODLAD, M  
HUSSEY, J

LOVEDAY, M  
MONGAN, J  
WARD, P  
YOUNG, N A M

### QLD

DONALDSON, O J

### SA

MENNER, G

### VIC

BLOOD, B  
COLTISH, L

CUNNINCHAM, V  
HAINES, J

HYDE, E  
RICHARDS, S

SHEAHEY, P  
TICKNER, R

### TAS

BRITTEN, E  
DUNCAN, J

FRYER, M  
JONES, G

RUSSELL, C  
TOWNSEND, K

WYLIE, C

## Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge

### NSW

BROWN, L  
HARRIS, C A  
HILL, E

HUTCHINSON, R B  
JOLLEY, K A  
KING, H J

LEWIS, W A  
ROGALA-KOCZOROWSKI, M  
TARR, M E

WOOD OAM, M  
WORTHINGTON, M

### TAS

DANN, Reverend C

### VIC

LECK, N

## 50 Year Membership Certificate

### ACT

SMALLEY OAM, R F

### NSW

ABBOTT, V L  
ALEXANDER, G T  
ANDERSON, A  
ARMSTRONG, G F  
BANYARD, R  
BECK, B  
BECKMAN, F  
BELL, D K  
BEVAN, J S  
BIRDSALL, L E  
BOOTH, L H  
BOOTH, S  
BOWDEN, G K  
BRIAN, L G  
BROOKES, C J  
BROWN, V P  
BROWN, H  
BROWN, HT  
BROWNING, D J  
BUCKLEY, H  
BUGEJA, G  
BURKE, W  
BUXTON, A G  
CAMPBELL, R R  
CAMPBELL, K N  
CARLYLE, N  
CASTLE, J A  
CHARD, B A  
CHRISTIE, E D  
CLARK, A L  
CLARKSON, J G  
CLARKSON, N C  
COFFEY, W M  
CONWAY, B  
COPPIN, L  
COYTE, R E  
CULLEN, K  
CUNNINGHAM, D M

DAY, J  
DREDGE, C A  
DREHA, T J  
DRURY, R R  
DUNN, W M  
EVANS, J R  
FAREY, L K  
FLETCHER, F C  
FLYNN, C H  
FOGGO, R S  
FOLEY, C A  
FRAME, D C  
FULLER, R T  
GERAGHTY, T M  
GRACE, R C  
GRAHAM, J D  
GRAY, O P  
GWILYM, J  
HANDYSIDE, D  
HIBBERT, J F  
HINWOOD, R T  
HOGER, W  
HOWARD, S  
HOWE, E R G  
HOWIE, G  
HUNT, E  
INCH, N  
INGLIS, R  
IRONSIDE, W H  
ISAKSSON MC OAM, O H  
JAMES, E  
JOHNSON, R A  
KENNEDY, F L  
KING, L E  
KING, V K  
KITT, V  
KNOX, K  
KREUTZBERGER, R

LAMBERT, C K  
LAURENCE, E G  
LEONARD, W E  
LEVER, J  
LEWIS, F B  
LEWIS, I O  
LIPPMAN, P  
LITTLE, J  
LLOYD, C C  
LOGAN, N E  
LONERGAN, C A  
MACKAY, W  
MASCORD, D F  
McGOVERN, F J  
McMAHON, C  
MOORE, A  
MORRIS, R J  
MORRISON, R C  
MOSSOP, R  
NELSON, J  
NELSON, G D  
NOLAN, W J  
NORTHAGE, H  
O'BRIEN, P J  
PARK, F W  
PATRICK, W G  
PETHEBRIDGE R  
PICONI OAM, R W  
PIKE, R L  
PIPER, L  
PORTER, K  
POWERS, J  
RANDALL OAM, M C  
RENNEBERG, D V  
RICHARDSON OAM, B D  
RICHARDSON, G  
RING, L R  
ROBERTS, C

ROBERTSON, D B  
RODGERS, R D  
SARGEANT, F C  
SAYERS, B  
SCHUCK OAM, R  
SEYFFER, L J  
SHARP AO RFD ED, R J  
SHARP, R J  
SINCLAIR, W S  
SINCLAIR, J  
SKLAVOS, G P  
SMITH, N E  
SMITH, D W  
SPOWART, K G  
STAPLETON, K J  
STEELE OAM, G  
STERRY, K J  
TALL, E R  
TATLER, T J  
TAYLOR AM, A K  
TRACEY, J R  
TRIGLONE, R M  
TRUDGEN, R  
TUCHIN, W  
VARNYAS, I  
WALSH, K V  
WALSH, V  
WARD, N G  
WARREN, T  
WAUGH, E F  
WEEKES, C L  
WEILEY, C G  
WHITTON, N  
WILLIAMS, G S  
WOODS, W  
WOOLAN, L S

### QLD

BATCHELOR, P C  
BRUMWELL, J H G  
CAHILL, N J  
COOPER, I R  
DAVIDSON, J W W

EKEBERG, R E  
GELDARD, E D  
HOBSON, R T  
ISDALE, N  
JONES, B E

KERWICK, D P  
SENG, H F  
STARKEY, L  
SULLIVAN, T T  
TRANter, E E

WAKELING, R T  
WELLS, R W  
WOODS AM DFC, L W  
YOUNG, R

### SA

TAYLOR, A R

### WA

CAMPBELL, S J

GIBSON, D J

ROSS, K J

TAYLOR, A R

## VIC

BARR, J  
COGLAN, P  
COLLETT, S  
COLLINIS, G  
COPS, G  
DUFFY, A  
ERBS, Alan  
ERBS, Arthur

FOREMAN, J  
FUHRMANN, R  
HOLBROOK, O  
KERR, T  
KILPATRICK, W  
LACK, A  
LADE, J  
LIGHT, L

LOUDEN, F  
McKENZIE, R  
MITCHELL, J  
MOLLER OAM RFD ED, J  
NUTT, R  
QUAIL, W  
ROBINSON, F  
RUNNALLS, T

SPOTSWOOD, J  
SYMONS, C  
TWIGG, R  
WRIGHT, L  
YORSTON, J

## 75 Year Membership Certificate

### TAS

HOUSE, F

## Certificate of Appreciation

### National

Cricket Australia  
Maroubra Woolworths

### ACT

BURNS, Pte P

SAYERS, Ian

THORPE, B E

WEBSTER, J K

### NSW

BENINGTON, W  
BRIDLE RFD, J D  
BRINDLE, Mr & Mrs B  
CATLIN, A H

CRUMLIN, C  
DEVENISH, R  
HEGYI, C  
HODSON, H

LARK, A J  
LAVERACK, C R  
McGURK, P  
NEWELL, D G

READ, R  
READING, D  
ROSSINGTON, C

## VIC

HANCOCK, C  
The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Sutton Veny  
The Staff and pupils of Sutton Veny Church of England Primary School

## Sub-Branch Anniversary Certificates

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### NSW

Miranda RSL sub-Branch

### 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

### 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### NSW

Cronulla RSL Sub-Branch



**Congratulations to all winners and thank you for those who volunteered their time so generously in 2015.**

# RSL Prizes - 2015

## 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 (which is presented bi-annually) continue to be highly regarded. These offer an opportunity to make known **the League's continuing interest in and involvement with our serving men and women**.

### Australian Defence Force Academy

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

RSL Sword for Service – Officer Cadet Phoebe Sutherland



RSL Sword recipient, Officer Cadet Phoebe Sutherland with the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN after the presentation of her Award

### 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 - Corporal Ernest Hocking

December Graduation - Staff Cadet Richard Mitchell

## ANZAC Awards

### ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize was awarded to Mr Frederick Hyde AM in recognition of over three decades of philanthropic work rescuing and educating orphaned and abandoned children in Bangladesh, and the promotion of cooperative relationships between the many diverse religious groups in that community.

## ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2015 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

- Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld AM OBE of Victoria in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to medicine as a researcher, scholar, surgeon and military physician.
- Ms Letitia Anne Sylvie Leach OAM FNM of Western Australia in recognition of her exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflicts or natural disasters and her pioneering spirit in the areas of public health and nursing education.
- Mr Gerard Kevin Butler of Victoria in recognition of his inspirational leadership of BlazeAid in its outstanding work to assist Australians affected by bushfire, flood and drought to rebuild their lives.
- Mr Les Bunn OAM of Queensland in recognition of his many years of steadfast service to the veteran and wider community of Mount Isa.
- Mr William (Bill) Denny AM BM of South Australia in recognition of his dedicated and committed service over many years to the veteran, ex-service and wider community of South Australia.
- Mr Wayne Gardiner RFD of Western Australia 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 history**.
- Ms Suzanne McGuiness-Butler of the Australian Capital Territory in recognition of her selfless and compassionate service to the veteran community **of the ACT, and in particular as a Veterans' Liaison Office at the Calvary Hospital**.

## 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 2015 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

Ms Laura Wood

Ms Cody Morris

### 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 2014/2015 are Francisca Raphael and Barry Bagu.

# National Officers & Board Members

## National Officers

National President	Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)
Deputy National President	Mr Terry Meehan (until June)
	Mr Robert Dick (from June)
Chief Executive Officer	Mrs Samantha Jackman (from April)
National Treasurer	Mr David Sinclair

## State Presidents

Victorian Branch President	Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)
Western Australian President	The Hon Graham Edwards AM
New South Wales Branch President	Mr Peter Stephenson OAM (Acting – until May)
	Mr Rod White (from May)
South Australian Branch President	Brigadier Tim Hanna AM
Queensland Branch President	Mr Terry Meehan (until June)
	Mr Stewart Cameron (from June)
Tasmanian Branch President	Mr Robert Dick
Australian Capital Territory Branch President	Mr Peter Eveille

## National Advisors

National Legal Advisor	Mr Rick Harley
National Defence Advisor	Air Vice Marshal Alan Titheridge AO (Retd)
National Veterans' Affairs Advisor	Mr John Hodges

# National Headquarters Staff Members

National Communications & Marketing Manager	Ms Donna Alexander
National Policy Officer	Ms Lisa Geraghty
Administrative Manager	Ms Sarah Blackmore
National Secretariat Support Officer	Mrs Jan Ormerod
National Project Officer	Mr Herbert (Mickey) Michaelis
<b>National President's PA</b>	Ms Dawn Kitchener
Accounts Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor
Reception	Ms Michelle Hemmingway



# RSL Membership Details

as at 31 December 2015

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
ACT/Overseas	1,593	13	nil	nil
NSW	38,713	364	2,335	138
QLD	34,928	242	539	51
SA/NT	12,070	133	207	12
TAS	4,117	51	345	24
VIC	69,402	282	1208	64
WA	10,035	130	nil	nil
<b>ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS</b>				
2015	170,858	1215	4634	289
2014	169,363	1,228	4,598	298
2013	170,625	1,241	5,494	330
2012	167,448	1,250	7,269	409
2011	177,345	1,261	6,505	372
2010	184,402	1,309	6,452	383

## 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  
7-9 Geelong Street  
FYSHWICK  
Phone: (02) 6280 4079

Postal Address: PO Box 721  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

### State Branches

#### ACT

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

#### QLD

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

#### VIC

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

#### NSW

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

#### TAS

206 New Town Rd  
NEW TOWN TAS 7008  
Postal: PO Box 147  
NEW TOWN TAS 7008  
Phone: (03) 6242 8900

#### SA

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

#### WA

28 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH  
Postal: PO Box 3023  
Adelaide Terrace  
PERTH WA 6832  
Phone: (08) 9287 3799  
Fax: (08) 9287 37



# CENTENARY OF ANZAC 1915 - 2015



Back Cover: **Australian soldiers 'somewhere in France' during World War I.**

Inside Back Cover: **The spirit of ANZAC is alive through all generations.**

Top photo: A mother and her daughter in reflection at The Shrine, Melbourne.

Bottom photo: Mr Jack Wilmott and his grandchildren.  
(photos courtesy of RSL VIC Branch)



At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We Will Remember Them