

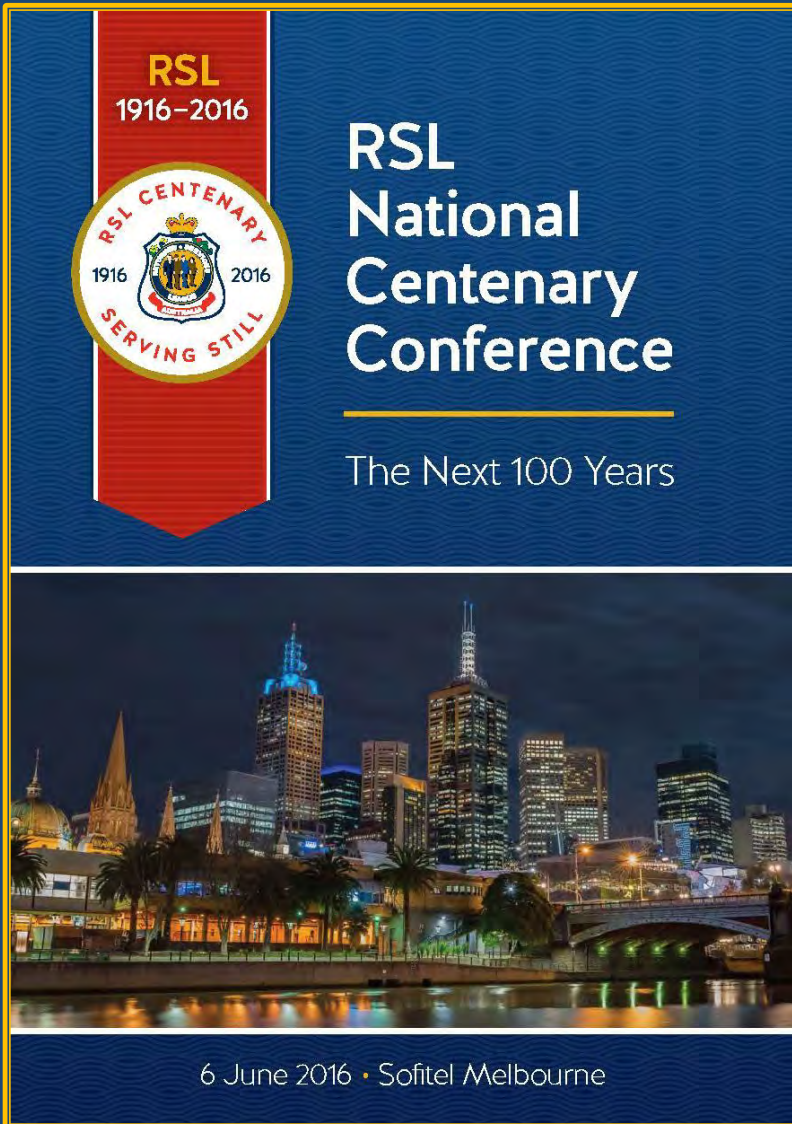
# Returned & Services League of Australia

## National Annual Report 2016



Serving Still

*The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance*



Front Cover: The Governor-General of Australia His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) presents the 2016 ANZAC Peace Prize to Mr Peter Greste.

Inside Front Cover:

Top and right photos: The RSL National Centenary Conference was held at the Sofitel Hotel in Melbourne.  
 Bottom photo: The RSL Centenary was commemorated with Centenary Coins and a postage stamp.



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# National President's Report

## Message from outgoing National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)



The Returned & Services League of Australia marked its 100 years of existence at a gathering in Melbourne on 5 and 6 June this year.

This significant milestone gave us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the League's past achievements and, more importantly, to ensure that the League develops programs to continue meeting the needs of the modern veteran, now and into the future.

The theme for the centenary conference *The Next Hundred Years* reflected both the foresight of the **founders and the determination of today's leadership** to focus on the future.

As I stand down from the position of National President at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on 7 June, I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for all you have done to assist me and, more particularly, the Returned & Services League of Australia during the past 7 years.

It has been an enormous privilege to have worked with you during this period of change and to have witnessed, first hand, the hugely important effort that the RSL directs towards the ongoing welfare needs of the service

and ex-service community and their families around the nation.

During my visits to Sub-Branches in all States and Territories, and to two which are in other countries, you have taken legitimate pride in explaining what is being achieved and in telling me about your plans for the future. These visits have also allowed conversations with community leaders throughout the nation during which I have been told repeatedly of the importance of the work of RSL Sub-Branches in supporting local communities and of their vital link to those communities.

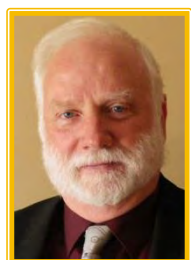
The dedication of the RSL membership to the ideals of our iconic organisation should be a matter of great pride **to all. It is certainly not lost on the nation's political leaders** as demonstrated by their attendance at and participation in so many RSL events.

The RSL has well served the nation for 100 years. With your continued dedication and hard work there is every reason to expect the RSL will continue to provide excellent service for the next 100 years.

I convey my sincere thanks to the members of the National Board and the National CEO and staff in the National Office for your hard work and support during my presidency.

Well done everyone.

## Message from Acting National President, Mr Robert Dick



I accepted the role as the acting National President of the League after the previous National President, Mr Rod White, stepped aside from the organisation.

The RSL is at the moment navigating its way through a difficult period as we are faced with some unprecedented issues. Whilst these issues are attracting a lot of attention, it is not distracting us from our core functions in continuing to provide support to all those in the service and ex-service communities, as we have done for the past 100 years and I am sure, as we will continue to do well into the future.

The last few months of this year has demonstrated to us all the immediate need for the organisation as a whole to review its ability to overcome organisational issues. We are in the process of reviewing the lessons learnt and revising the National constitution and by-laws to ensure we are better equipped to manage these events if they arise in the future.

Over the years the RSL has seen some periods of notable change:

- **In the 20's the RSL was building monuments and calling in political IOU's;**
- **In the 30's the RSL was identifying and filling gaps in the welfare system;**
- **In the 40's the RSL was harnessing volunteers from the defence family;**
- **The 50's was the great building era for the RSL;**
- **In the 60's the RSL was becoming more involved in the political debate;**
- **The 70's was a time of introspection and our attention turned to memberships;**
- **In the 80's the ranks of older veterans were thinning and new recruits were trying to take their place;**
- **In the 90's the RSL widened its membership criteria to welcome ADF members without operational service, and was known as the largest and most influential ex-service organisation in the country;**
- **In 2000's the RSL was developing a range of state based programs to support our existing members and the younger cohort of veterans and their families.**

We need to continue to evolve and, like most large organisations, we too have to stop every decade and take a long hard look at ourselves to ensure we modernise our practices, revitalise our relevance and established sustainable methodologies to support our work in the future.

We need to use our collective experience, resources and national reach to develop innovative solutions to help raise awareness, assist in prevention strategies and ensure our advocacy support is aligned to the meet the needs of veterans and their families.

We also need to review our systems and practices to make sure we are complying with state and federal regulatory requirements and streamlining our support channels.

We need to develop governance arrangements to ensure the organisation has a solid corporate foundation to support decision making in the states.

Out of every tough situation comes some positive outcomes:

- We have had the opportunity to talk to a diversity of members from all around Australia about their perception of the RSL;

- We have had the opportunity to talk to the younger cohort of veterans about their needs from the organisation;
- We have had the opportunity to review and revise out governance and compliance procedures; and reinforce our genuine commitment to improving the organisation for the betterment of our members, veterans and the broader community.

We are the largest ESO in the country, we have the widest reach, we represent the most members, we have a combined 4 million volunteer hours donated per annum and over 100 years of experience in providing real support for veterans and their families.

We are confident that if we are brave enough to examine ourselves over the next 12 months and if collectively we are willing to make changes for the betterment of the League, we will be able to regain the confidence of our members and the broader community and once again be known as an organisation of pride, strength and valour which **for 100 years has supported Australia's veterans**, serving men and women and their dependants.



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

**2016 marked the RSL's centenary.** From its beginning when, in June 1916, members from Returned Soldier's Associations met in Melbourne and resolved to join together "... to enable the League to guard and forward the interests of Returned Sailors and Soldiers", the League has grown from strength to strength as an organisation whose prime objective still remains - to promote the interests and welfare of serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.

## Centenary Products

To mark this signal event, a limited edition range of Centenary products were released throughout 2016. The royalties to National and State offices supported ANZAC and Poppy Day Appeals and delivered benefits 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

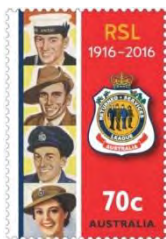
A range of limited edition commemorative coins were released on 1 March 2016. In a separate arrangement the Royal Australian Mint partnered with RSL to launch its new charity coin program towards the end of 2016.



\$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 was released by Australia Post in May 2016. It was packaged with the bronze RSL Centenary coin issued by The Perth Mint and a limited edition RSL Centenary medallion.

## RSL Documentary

To mark its centenary, the RSL gave unprecedented access to a documentary film crew to reveal some of the extraordinary stories of veterans and serving personnel as they transition from Defence to life as a civilian.

The documentary, which aired on Channel 9 on 4 February, gave an understanding of what these veterans have been through and how the RSL, through donations, helps rebuild lives. It showed how the simple act of buying a Poppy on Remembrance Day or a badge on Anzac Day makes a real difference, and illustrated the array of RSL programs and services which normally go unnoticed, and the dedication of RSL Sub-Branch volunteers who are the organisation's heart and soul.

## ANZAC Matches

We thank the Australian Football League (AFL) and National Rugby League (NRL) for their support offered to the RSL during matches played around ANZAC Day. The RSL Centenary logo was featured on the jerseys of **more teams than last year's season and players** supported pre-promotional activities. Donations collected during these matches assisted the many RSL programs for veterans and serving members of the ADF.

## Review of Suicide Prevention Services for Veterans

On 11 August the Prime Minister announced the Government would trial a suicide prevention initiative in Townsville to help Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, as well as a targeted review of the suicide and self-harm prevention services available to ADF members and veterans. He further said it would be carried out by the National Mental Health Commission, with support from an expert panel including current and former service men and women. A RSL national submission was developed and tendered as well as several state submissions. The RSL will present on its submission to the Inquiry in the new year.

## 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.

2016 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.

## RSL/RSL Clubs Forum

The RSL National Forum was originally formed to bring together representatives from the RSL National Office, RSL State Branches and the various State RSL Sub-Branch/Club Associations to discuss matters of national interest across predominantly the States of Queensland, NSW and Victoria. The Forum was reconstituted and its first meeting was held in Queensland on 6 May.

Attendees agreed that the National Forum was worth pursuing as it provided a useful vehicle for tabling matters of National RSL operational issues. Matters listed for the National Forum agenda were of a commercial nature, or matters that were more specific to the operation of RSL Sub-Branches/Licensed Clubs. It

was also agreed that the National Forum would look at ways of promoting the good work of the RSL, through its hundreds of Sub-Branched/Licensed RSL Clubs and hundreds of thousands of members across the eastern seaboard. Reciprocity was always high on the agenda.

## Veterans Film Festival

RSL National have agreed to sponsor the Veterans Film Festival which showcases human stories about serving and ex-serving military personnel and the impact war has on society. The Veterans Film Festival (VFF) is the first of its kind and will be held each year around 11 November as part of Remembrance Day.





# National Centenary Conference

The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia was held in Melbourne, Victoria on Monday 6 June, exactly 100 years to the day from the meeting at which members from Returned **Soldiers' Associations from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia** resolved to form a national body to represent the interests of returned soldiers from the First World War and founded the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia.

The Conference commenced with a wreath laying ceremony **at the Melbourne's Shrine** of Remembrance in the afternoon of Sunday 5 June. The ceremony was very well attended, with wreaths being laid by dignitaries including the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.



Prime Minister The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, National President RADM Ken Doolan and Leader of the Opposition The Hon Bill Shorten MP lay wreaths during the Wreathlaying Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance.

The Conference was opened by the Governor-General His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, and the delegates were addressed by the Prime Minister, The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, and the Leader of the Opposition, The Hon. Bill Shorten MP.



Peace Prize presentation

During the Opening Ceremony, His Excellency presented the ANZAC Peace Prize to Mr Peter Greste. This award recognised **Mr Greste's** outstanding efforts to foster international understanding, highlight wider global injustices and his campaign for freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

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

**The theme for this year's conference was 'The Next 100 Years'**, and the format involved a series of four sessions – RSL History, Where Are We Now – Technology and the RSL, Where Are We Going, and Governance. Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

Keynote speakers for these sessions of the Conference were:

- **'RSL History'**  
Mr Leslie Carlyon AC, Australian War Memorial Council Member
- **'Where Are We Now – Technology and the RSL'**  
Samantha Jackman – CEO RSL National  
Dan Cairnes – Senior VP Combined Tramways & East Melb. Sub-Branch
- **'Where Are We Going'**  
Brigadier Michael Annett CSC  
Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN, Vice Chief of the Defence Force
- **'Governance'**  
Geoff Wohlsen - DWS



Mr Les Carlyon addresses the delegates

**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 Annual General Meeting, the following national officers were returned:

- National President:  
Mr Roderick White
- Deputy National President:  
Mr Robert Dick
- National Treasurer:  
Mr David Sinclair



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

- Mr BJ Clarke – National President  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- Mr David Moger – CEO  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association



BJ Clarke – National President, RNZRSA addresses the conference.

## Functions

Conference delegates attended the National Centenary Conference Dinner which was held at Sofitel Melbourne on 6 June.



The National Centenary Conference Dinner was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Sofitel Melbourne.

## 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.

## 2017 National Conference

The 2017 National Conference will be held in Canberra in September.





# 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 2016.

As advised in my report twelve months ago, the proceeds of sale of 81 Constitution Avenue totaling \$6,480,877 have been isolated from the Operational Account for the National Office into a separate account termed the ISKIA Account which has been reported on as a separate entity by the auditor. The ISKIA Account itself has been treated in two distinct components:

- an investment fund designed to meet ongoing management and maintenance funding requirements, e.g. rates, taxes, body corporate levies, renovations etc, for the new National Office once completed at 81 Constitution Avenue; and
- an operational fund to cover the costs of purchase including deposit requirements and associated legal expenses, as well as fitout. During the year deposits from this fund totaling \$271,916 (ex GST) were placed on the commercial site as well as on a 2-bedroom apartment in the same building intended principally for use by an out-of-Canberra National President.

Taken as a whole, the ISKIA Fund generated a net profit of \$201,315, resulting in a net equity at **year's** end of \$6,681,442.

The latest projection from the builder (Hindmarsh) is that pre-construction work will commence late-2017 with completion estimated some two years later. If this timetable can be adhered to, we should be in place in the new National Office by late 2019.

Turning to the National Office Operating Account, the picture is not so rosy, with an end-of-year deficit of

\$245,526. This result has been heavily influenced by the inclusion of the costs, totaling \$128,198, of the initial KordaMentha investigation and report into possible financial irregularities within the NSW Branch Office. As well, there was a shortfall of \$53,384 in Modern Baking (ANZAC biscuits) estimated receipts, while in expenses there was a large over expenditure against budget on Legals resulting from heavy involvement in such pivotal issues as Trademarks and Constitution. Business Development results were also less than satisfactory with an end-of-year deficit of \$130,703, largely stemming from failure of several projects to proceed to finality and over-reliance on expensive outsourcing.

Overall, net equity for the Operational Account at 31 December 2016 is reported as \$1,340,050. When combined with the ISKIA Fund results, total net equity for the company at 31 December 2016 is reported as \$8,021,493.

There were no reportable changes to the financial policies of the National Office. Suffice to say, however, that in so far as it is possible, every attempt will be made under the guidance of the Chief Executive Officer, to align the National Office Budget and financial processes to the remit determined by the National Board.

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 deep appreciation for the assistance, guidance and support, particularly of our Accounts Officer, who contributed above and beyond the call of duty, as well as our online accountant and auditor throughout the year.

DAVID SINCLAIR  
National Treasurer



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**FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**A.C.N. 008 488 097**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

Your Directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

**DIRECTORS**

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

NAME	EXPERIENCE	MEETINGS HELD	MEETINGS ATTENDED
K A Doolan AO	National President - 6 years, 6 months	11	1
G Edwards AM	National Director - 2 years, 6 months	11	1
S Cameron CSC	National Director - 1 year, 6 months	11	9
T Hanna AM	National Director - 3 years, 6 months	11	11
D J McLachlan AO	National Director - 13 years, 7 months	11	10
R Dick	Member Director - 3 years, 7 months	11	11
R White AM RFD	National Director - 1 year, 1 month	11	5
P Eveille	National Director - 2 years, 7 months	11	10
P Aspinall	Member Director - 6 months	11	6
John Haines AM	Member Director - 3 months	11	7

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

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

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

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

During the year there was no significant change in the nature of those activities.

**OPERATING RESULT**

The net deficit of the National Headquarters for the year ended 31 December 2016 was \$245,526. (2015: surplus \$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.

**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.

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**A.C.N. 008 488 097**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONT)**

**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.

**AUDITORS 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 2016 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of MARCH 2017

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

ABN: 63 008 488 097

**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:

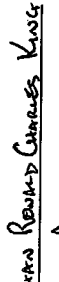
- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

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

**Director:**

  
Name Robert Park

**Director:**

  
Name Samantha Rowland-Chapman

**Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2017**



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  
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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 2016, 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: 23 March 2017

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

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	NOTE	2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Revenue from ordinary activities	3a	1,700,015	1,766,434
Profit on sale of buildings		-	9,678,818
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>1,700,015</u>	<u>11,445,252</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration expenses		112,497	163,019
NSW Branch Forensic Investigation		128,197	-
Employee benefits expense		785,793	755,782
Occupancy expenses		126,410	152,351
Depreciation	3b	29,259	40,096
Meeting and conference expenses		112,501	65,902
Insurance costs		21,232	19,364
Legal costs		107,110	-
Accounting and auditing fees		15,346	18,407
New buildings planning expenses		-	4,200,000
Other expenses from ordinary activities		507,196	510,215
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>1,945,541</u>	<u>5,925,136</u>
<b>(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>		<u>(245,526)</u>	<u>5,520,116</u>
<b>Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Deficit for Year</b>		<u>(245,526)</u>	<u>5,520,116</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
A.C.N. 008 488 097  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	NOTE	2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets	4	862,238	989,671
Receivables	5	96,868	156,334
Other	6	64,920	65,658
Inventory	7	41	67
Investments	8	500,000	7,000,128
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>1,524,067</u>	<u>8,211,858</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	116,702	137,673
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>116,702</u>	<u>137,673</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>1,640,769</u>	<u>8,349,531</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	267,093	268,633
Provisions	11	18,536	24,255
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>285,629</u>	<u>292,888</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	12	15,089	14,571
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>15,089</u>	<u>14,571</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>300,718</u>	<u>307,459</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>1,340,051</u>	<u>8,042,072</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings	14	1,340,051	8,042,072
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>1,340,051</u>	<u>8,042,072</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

Balance at 1 January, 2015	2,538,850
Surplus (Loss) for Year 2015	5,520,116
Prior Year Adjustments	(16,894)
<b>Balance at 31 December, 2015</b>	<u>8,042,072</u>
Balance at 1 January, 2016	8,042,072
Surplus (Loss) for Year 2016	(245,526)
Transferred to ISKIA Development Fund	(6,480,877)
Historical Balancing Account	24,382
<b>Balance at 31st December 2016</b>	<u>1,340,051</u>

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	NOTE	2016	2015
		\$	\$
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,651,965	8,317,531
Payments to employees and suppliers		(1,858,430)	(2,853,484)
Interest received		68,069	132,575
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	19a	<u>(138,396)</u>	<u>5,596,622</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Payments for property, vehicle & equipment		(34,545)	(39,588)
Profit/Loss on disposal of assets		7,053	(5,458,624)
Proceeds from sale of vehicle, plant & equipment		19,204	6,500,000
Transferred to ISKIA Development Fund		(6,480,877)	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(6,425,727)</u>	<u>1,001,788</u>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		(6,627,561)	6,598,410
<b>Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year</b>		7,989,799	1,391,389
<b>Cash At The End Of The Financial Year</b>	19b	<u>1,362,238</u>	<u>7,989,799</u>

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 2016  
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:

Class of Plant and Equipment Asset	Useful Lives
Buildings	45 Years
Plant and equipment	5-13 Years

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016  
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.

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**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.

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

(i) 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.

**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.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 3: REVENUE</b>		
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax includes the following items of revenue and expenses:		
<b>(a) Operating Activities</b>		
Capitation Fees	790,698	777,455
Commission Received	108,154	1,551
Donations (Net of Share to States)	77,296	411,811
Royalties	96,948	3,691
Interest	68,069	132,575
Modern Baking	186,110	243,697
Victory in the Pacific	-	181,818
Pooling Costs	298,497	-
Other Revenue from Ordinary Activities	74,243	13,836
	<u>1,700,015</u>	<u>1,766,434</u>
<b>(b) Expenses</b>		
Depreciation of Non-Current Assets:		
Buildings	-	7,678
Equipment, Furniture and Fixture	6,050	6,697
Motor Vehicles	12,679	13,308
Computer Hardware and Software	10,346	12,214
Library, Plaques & RSL March	184	199
	<u>29,259</u>	<u>40,096</u>
Net Transfers to/(from) Provisions:		
Employee Entitlement	-	(44,578)
Annual Leave	-	(6,716)
Long Service Leave	-	(51,294)
	<u>106,667</u>	<u>94,697</u>
Operating Lease Rental Expenses		

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash at Bank – General Funds	818,706	828,396
Term Deposits	43,532	161,276
	<u>862,238</u>	<u>989,671</u>
<b>NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade Debtors	46,799	24,987
Sundry Debtors	50,069	131,347
	<u>96,868</u>	<u>156,334</u>
<b>NOTE 6: OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Rental Bond	31,250	31,250
Prepayments	33,670	34,408
	<u>64,920</u>	<u>65,658</u>
<b>NOTE 7: INVENTORIES</b>		
Stock on hand	41	67
<b>NOTE 8: INVESTMENTS</b>		
Term Deposit	500,000	7,000,128

**NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	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 31/12/2015	255,887	71,657	104,663	11,877	444,084
Additions	-	34,545	-	-	34,545
Disposals	-	(37,724)	-	-	(37,724)
Balance as at 31/12/2016	<u>255,887</u>	<u>68,478</u>	<u>104,663</u>	<u>11,877</u>	<u>440,905</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>					
Balance as at 31/12/2015	(197,241)	(10,333)	(89,410)	(9,427)	(306,411)
Depreciation Expense	(6,050)	(12,679)	(10,346)	(184)	(29,259)
Acc. Dep. Write Back	-	11,467	-	-	11,467
Balance as at 31/12/2016	<u>(203,291)</u>	<u>(11,545)</u>	<u>(99,756)</u>	<u>(9,611)</u>	<u>(324,203)</u>
Balance as at 31/12/2016	<u>52,596</u>	<u>56,933</u>	<u>4,907</u>	<u>2,266</u>	<u>116,702</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 10: CURRENT PAYABLES</b>		
Trade Creditors	148,574	32,338
Other Payables	118,519	236,295
	<u>267,093</u>	<u>268,633</u>
<b>NOTE 11: CURRENT PROVISIONS</b>		
Annual Leave (note 13)	16,079	16,409
Long Service Leave (note 13)	2,457	7,846
	<u>18,536</u>	<u>24,255</u>
<b>NOTE 12: NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS</b>		
Long Service Leave (note 13)	15,089	14,571

**NOTE 13: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**  
The aggregate employee entitlement liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:

Provisions for Employee Entitlements	18,536	24,255
Current (note 11)	15,089	14,571
Non-Current (note 12)	33,625	38,826
	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
Number of Employees (on a Full-time Equivalent Basis) at the end of the Financial Year		
	8,042,072	2,538,850
	(245,526)	5,520,116
	(6,480,877)	(16,894)
	<u>24,382</u>	<u>8,042,072</u>
Balance at the end of the Financial Year	1,340,051	

**NOTE 14: CHANGE IN EQUITY**

**Retained Earnings**  
Balance at the Beginning of the Financial Year  
Net Profit (Loss) Attributable to Members  
Transferred to ISKIA Development Fund  
Prior year adjustment  
Balance at the end of the Financial Year

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 15: REMUNERATION OF AUDITOR</b>		
Remuneration of Auditor for:		
Auditing the Financial Report	9,000	5,400
Other Accounting Services	1,075	680
	<u>10,075</u>	<u>6,080</u>

**NOTE 16: 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 17: 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	Fixed Interest Rate			Non-Interest Bearing	Total
		Variable Interest Rate	Maturity Less than 1 year	1 to 5 Years		
<b>01/01/16 - 31/12/16</b>						
<b>Financial Assets</b>	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash	1-3.85%	818,706	43,532	-	-	862,238
Investments	2.95%	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
Receivables	-	-	-	-	46,799	46,799
		818,706	543,532	-	46,799	1,409,037
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Creditors & accruals	-	-	-	-	267,094	267,094
Employee entitlements	-	-	-	-	33,625	33,625
		-	-	-	300,719	300,719
<b>01/01/15 - 31/12/15</b>						
<b>Financial Assets</b>	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash	1-3.85%	828,292	161,276	-	103	989,671
Investments	3.85%	-	7,000,128	-	-	7,000,128
Receivables	-	-	-	-	24,987	24,987
		828,292	7,161,404	-	25,090	8,014,786
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>						
Creditors & accruals	-	-	-	-	268,633	268,633
Employee entitlements	-	-	-	-	38,826	38,826
		-	-	-	307,459	307,459

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

b. Credit Risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a customer or business partner will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Company. The RSL has adopted the policy of only dealing with 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 18: TRUST FUNDS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
(a) JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE FUND OF THE RSL Cash at bank and on deposit	436,624	417,073
(b) RSL NATIONAL WELFARE AND DISASTER FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	-	263,906
(c) THE MOUNTBATTEN FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	102,064	104,121
(d) WAR VETERANS HOMES & WELFARE Cash at bank and on deposit	855,255	844,667
(e) COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES Cash at bank (Bastian Plaques)	29,986	29,626
(f) RSL & 6TH DIV HELLENIC MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	114,434	118,771
(g) THE MONA TAIT & MAY HAYMAN MEMORIAL FUND Cash at bank and on deposit	5,293	5,239
(h) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	382,440	423,962
(i) RSL FOUNDATION FUND Cash at bank & on Deposit	640,360	364,246

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

NOTE 19: NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (GENERAL FUND)

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
a. Reconciliation of (Loss)/Profit From Ordinary Activities After Related Income Tax to Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities	(245,526)	5,520,116
Prior Year Adjustments	-	(16,894)
Depreciation, amortisation	29,259	40,096
Employee provisions	(5,201)	(51,294)
Historical Balancing Adjustments	24,382	-
(Increase)/Decrease in assets	59,466	17,121
Current receivables	26	110,377
Inventories	738	(82,232)
Other current assets	(1,540)	59,332
Other current liabilities	(138,396)	5,596,622
Net Cash Flows From Operating Activities		

b. Reconciliation of Cash

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

Cash - working account	862,238	989,671
Term deposits	500,000	7,000,128
	1,362,238	7,989,799

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.

NOTE 20: DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

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

NOTE 21: REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

7-9 Geelong Street  
Fyshwick ACT 2609

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Principal Phillip W Miller CA  
Address Unit 1/57 Gelle Court, Deakin ACT 2600  
PO Box 105, Deakin West ACT 2600  
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ASIC Authorised Audit Company No. 408893

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

**REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

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:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

**Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2016, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of Responsible Entities and the Board for the Financial Report**

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our [my] opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
  - Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
  - Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
  - Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
  - Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Name of firm: MCS Audit Pty Ltd

Name of director:   
Phillip W Miller CA

Address: Unit 1/37 Geils Court, Deakin ACT 2600

Dated: 23 March 2017

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION


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

CONTENTS

Responsible Persons' Declaration  
Auditor's Independence Declaration  
Statement of Comprehensive Income  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
Statement of Financial Position  
Notes to the Financial Report  
Independent Auditor's Report

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 ROBERT DICK

Director:   
Name JONATHAN RONALD CHARLES KING

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of MARCH 2017



**mcs audit** Pty Ltd  
authorised audit+ company



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

Principal Phillip W Miller CA  
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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  
ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**

As lead auditor for the audit of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited ISKIA Development Fund for the year ended 31 December 2016, 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: 23 March 2017.

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED  
ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	NOTE
	\$	
<b>Revenue</b>		
Interest Received	85,924	
Dividends Received	16,587	
Trust Income	40,956	
Other Income	77,559	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>221,026</u>	
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Legal Fees	5,936	
Brokerage Fees	440	
Admin & General Expenses	13,335	
Audit Fees	750	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>20,461</u>	
<b>(Loss)/Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<u>200,565</u>	
<b>Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities</b>	<u>-</u>	
<b>Net Surplus for Year</b>	<u>200,565</u>	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	TOTAL
Equity at 1 January 2016	\$ -	\$ -
Surplus (Loss) for Year 2016	200,565	200,565
Transfer from RSL	<u>6,480,877</u>	<u>6,480,877</u>
Balance at 31st December 2016	<u>6,681,442</u>	<u>6,681,442</u>

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	NOTE	2016
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>\$</b>
Cash Assets	2	99,373
Receivables	3	28,525
Other Current Assets	4	271,916
Investments	5	<u>6,282,378</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>6,682,192</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>6,682,192</u></b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade & Other Payables	6	<u>750</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b><u>750</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>6,681,442</u></b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings		<u>6,681,442</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b><u>6,681,442</u></b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

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

This special purpose financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited ISKIA Development Fund 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.

This financial report only covers The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited ISKIA Development Fund 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:

Class of Plant and Equipment Asset	Useful Lives
Buildings	45 Years
Plant and equipment	5-13 Years

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**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**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) 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.

(f) Revenue Grants

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.

(g) 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.

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**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

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

(h) 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.

(i) 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.

(i) 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.

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**  
**ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

**NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at Bank – General Funds

	99,373
	99,373

2016  
\$

**NOTE 3: RECEIVABLES**

RSL NHQ loan receivable

	28,525
	28,525

**NOTE 4: OTHER CURRENT ASSETS**

Deposit Paid for Units

	271,916
	271,916

**NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS**

Term Deposit  
 ANZ Private Wealth

	3,400,000
	2,882,379
	6,282,379

**NOTE 6: TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES**

Accrued Expenses

	750
	750

**NOTE 7: REGISTERED OFFICE AND 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  
ISKIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Report on the financial report**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited (ISKIA Development Fund, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity 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 and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a 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 have 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 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 (ISKIA Development Fund) 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 2016 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

**Basis of accounting**

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entities' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of firm:

MCS Audit Pty Ltd

Name of director:

Phillip W Miller CA

Address:

Unit 1/37 Geils Court, Deakin ACT 2600

Dated:

23 March 2017



# Australian Capital Territory Branch Report

## Branch

The ACT Branch of the RSL progressed and steadily moved ahead in meeting goals and objectives throughout the year. The Branch office moved to Woden and shares accommodation with the Woden Sub-Branch. This move was necessary due to renovations at Morshead Homes and the savings to be gained by a shared resource with Woden.

During 2016, the Branch continued with core business activities – serving the veteran community and being involved with commemoration activities.

The priorities ahead include (in no particular order):

- Bedding down our Branch Constitution to align with National;
- Review of the By-Laws;
- Budget Planning/review of Governance;
- Accommodation – long term;
- Finalising arrangements for Branch to take administrative responsibilities of the **Veterans' Support Centre (VSC)**;
- Finalising arrangements for the VSC to obtain PBI/DGR status;

The Branch was successful in obtaining our first **BEST grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs**, and this was greatly appreciated.

## Service Delivery

Service delivery is the major part of our core business. A special thanks goes to our advocates, entitlement officers and community support staff for their excellent work and the care and support they provide to individuals and families. In the future, we hope to involve more volunteers with home visits and lessen the load a little for support staff.



People seeking assistance from Branch come from all age groups - from our WWII veterans through to those recently separated or still serving. The number of issues relating to our elder veterans is causing some concern as the numbers of reports are increasing and beginning to stretch the resources of our community support staff. We encourage members to offer their services in any capacity.

Other initiatives on the Service Delivery side included a successful outdoor activity. This involved members from

RSL ACT and Soldier On, ACT completing a rowing program. Those involved realised the importance of hard work, team spirit and identified for themselves a number of other personal qualities they had to call on to be able to start a very rigorous program knowing nothing and finally competing in a regatta. A very well done to all and a big thank you to Deputy President, Jim Gilchrist.



Programs of this type will be followed up with the **"Remount Horsemanship Program"** being the next project. This involves members attending a two to four day program at a farm near Bowning. There is no cost to participants and participants get to know horse handling, working with stock, teamwork and a range of other skills. No pre knowledge is required and participants are assisted throughout the residential program by highly qualified staff. The program is based on the successful **"Semper Fi"** program involving support initiatives for marines from the United States Marine Corps. A pilot program will be undertaken in February 2017.



## Australia Day Achievement Medallions

On 23 January, Australia Day Achievement Medallions for 2016 were presented to selected recipients by Dr Chris Bourke MLA (representing the Chief Minister). Dr Bourke was later that day advised of his new appointment as Minister for Veterans and Seniors.

The Australia Day medallion was created to acknowledge the outstanding contribution and performance of Public Sector employees. Some time ago the RSL was also involved in presenting awards with a similar objective – and agreement was reached to allow the RSL to participate in presenting Australia Day medallions. The RSL, therefore, feels very privileged to be only one of a small number of organisations, outside Federal Agencies, to present these awards. The awards

represent a high level of recognition and are particularly relevant in the lead up to Australia Day on 26 January.

#### This year's Awards were presented to:

Brian Alabaster	Woden Valley
Dave Jeffrey	Woden Valley
Glenn Maitland	Port Moresby
Ralph Sullivan	Tuggeranong
Ken Tait	Belconnen

Our congratulations go to all recipients on their well-deserved awards.

#### RSL ACT 2016 Congress

**This year's Congress, our 90<sup>th</sup>**, was again well attended. The newly elected National President was among the **gathering having been in the "chair" for only three days**. The key address was delivered by His Excellency, Mr Chris Seed, the New Zealand High Commissioner. Other guest speakers were Chris Bourke, ACT Government Minister responsible for Veterans and Seniors and the Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Hanson who is also the Opposition spokesman on Veterans Affairs.

#### Branch Executive

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

Peter Eveille	President
Jim Gilchrist	Deputy President
Peter Collas	Treasurer
Sandra King	Vice President
Gerard Pratt	Vice President

Andrew Moebus joined the Executive as Treasurer later in the year which allowed Peter Collas to concentrate on governance issues that were identified and to rewrite the Constitution and By-Laws to align with the new National documents agreed at the National AGM.

#### League Awards

The following League Awards and Certificates were presented by the High Commissioner:

Life Membership of the League was awarded to:

Robert (Bob) Cremer	Woden Valley
Michael (Mike) Taylor	Woden Valley
AVM Elliott (Mac) Weller AM (Retd)	Belconnen

Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to:

Ron Stacey	Belconnen
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50 Year Membership Certificates were awarded to:

Murray Nicholls	Gungahlin
John Rice	Gungahlin

#### Commemorative Events

The ACT Branch continues to arrange or participate in many commemorative activities in Canberra and the surrounding region. Naturally ANZAC Day and

Remembrance form the major commemorative events in the yearly calendar but other events continue to involve Branch members.

The Branch also attended some of the Last Post Ceremonies at the Australian War Memorial this year. Commencing at approximately 4.55 pm each day, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving **Last Post Ceremony, held in Memorial's Commemorative courtyard**. Each night the Last Post Ceremony tells the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour which lists more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century.

In 1988, the RSL gifted a memorial to the people of Australia to mark the opening of the New Parliament House. The memorial is situated on one of the corners of the drive surrounding Parliament House. Each year a **ceremony is hosted by one of the ACT's federal politicians**. This year on 2 March, after a few years hiatus, a ceremony was again held and hosted by Senator Katy Gallagher. Our thanks go to Jan Paulga who was the key instigator behind resurrecting this important ceremony.

#### ANZAC Day 2016

This year marked the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Around 55,000 people attended the Canberra dawn service, while 80 plus contingents participated in the National Ceremony march past. The reviewing officer this year was the Prime Minister, The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP.

The RSL ACT members combined with the local Vietnam Veteran ESOs to lead the march and to commemorate **the RSL's 100<sup>th</sup> year** and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

At the RSL ACT Council meeting of 16 May, the Council agreed that RSL ACT members would march as a combined contingent in future. A banner will be procured for this occasion.

#### Appeals

The appeals conducted in 2016 were very successful. Sub-branches continue to do well at fund raising, linking into community events such as school commemorative activities and other such activities. Thanks and appreciation is extended to all sub-branches and members who contributed to this success. The funds obtained from the generous public are used to support our core functions.



The Branch did benefit from a small number of additional "bonuses" by being the selected charity at various events, including NRL matches and Floriade. Again, many thanks to those who volunteered, including a contingent of Army Cadets, on these occasions.



### Branch Website

The new Branch website is finally up and running, and though the site is still a work in progress, more information will be introduced as time progresses. Many thanks to the "creative team" for a great product.

### Recruitment

The Branch continues to look for new ways to encourage new members to join the League to assist us in maintaining the work we do. To support this endeavour and to increase awareness of the League in the ACT, billboard advertising was placed on an Action bus during the year.



### Conclusion

The Branch appreciates the efforts of the staff of our Veterans Support Centre and our many volunteers who work tirelessly to assist and support our members in many ways. Our thanks also go to the Branch staff - CEO James Davidson, Dave Mills our Office Manager, and Alexia our bookkeeper for their strong support and guidance to the Executive.

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



# New South Wales Branch Report

## State Congress

The City of Sydney paid a wonderful tribute to the Returned and Services League and its members by presenting a symbolic key denoting the Freedom of the City, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual State Congress. It is only the 16<sup>th</sup> time in the history of Sydney that this honour has been bestowed.

The Lord Mayor noted that for the past century the League and its members had provided outstanding service to veterans and their families, not only in Sydney but also throughout NSW.

The 2016 State Congress was officially opened on Tuesday 24 May by NSW Governor, General David Hurley, who congratulated the League on reaching its centenary. Mrs Linda Hurley, as the choir's patron, joined the children of the RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir in singing the National Anthem and later their signature song "Young and Free".

To mark the RSL centenary the State Branch made a gift to the nation of the entire collection of issues of *Reveille*. From the first issue, August 1927, these have been digitised and are accessible through a link on the RSL NSW website. Not only is every page available but users are able to search by topic, person or date. More than 30,000 pages have been scanned and catalogued.

After a competitive bidding process, delegates voted in favour of holding the Annual Congress for the next three years in Albury.

## RSL Active

In August this year, members of RSL Active and RSL NSW joined members of the Canadian Armed Forces program helping wounded, injured and ill veterans and serving personnel to take part in sailing lessons in Newport, Sydney as part of their visit to Australia. Lt Shawn Butt from the Royal Canadian Navy said having the opportunity to come to Australia was like winning the lottery.

**"I** have had the most amazing experience since arriving here and everyone has been so welcoming. I had done a little bit of sailing before, trying to teach myself, but it was really the first time I had been taught properly. More concentration was required than I expected and this is one of the things I struggle with, so it was good to test **myself."**

Jamie Tanner, who was one of the RSL NSW members hosting the Canadians during their stay, said it had been a fantastic couple of days hanging out and being able to show them around Sydney.

**"It's** been really good to be able to get involved. The sailing activity was a lot of fun, and I picked it up really quickly. I have spent a bit of time on the water with

power boats but not wind operated boats. It was the perfect day for it, with a light breeze, just enough to fill the **sails,"** he said.

Garry Robinson, from RSL Active, said he had an awesome time, but it was a shame the winds weren't higher to get a bit more speed.

**"It's** been great being able to be part of the activity and meet and get to know the Canadians. It doesn't matter what country you are from, all serving members are friendly, approachable and easy to talk **to."**

## Invictus Games

HRH Prince Harry of Wales has named Sydney as host of the 2018 Invictus Games, an international sporting event for wounded, injured and ill serving and former serving military personnel. 17 nations will compete in eleven different adaptive sports with events being held across Greater Sydney, including Sydney Olympic Park and on and around Sydney Harbour in late October 2018.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Returned and Services League (RSL) have been involved with the Invictus Games since its inception, competing in London in 2014 and Orlando earlier this year.

RSL NSW sub-Branches are excited about supporting the Invictus Games in Sydney in 2018.

## Commemoration

### ANZAC Day

The Sydney CBD glowed in warm autumn sunshine as almost 17,000 people took part in the ANZAC Day March, which this year was along Elizabeth Street after George Street was closed for light rail construction.

Despite some confusion for those assembling in unfamiliar streets, the March was a resounding success and the public showed its approval with more than 100,000 taking advantage of the wider footpaths and the raised viewing points of Hyde Park.

Lieutenant Governor Tom Bathurst AC led the March from the back of an open vehicle. Heading the ADF members were Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, Commander Fleet, Major General Gus Gilmore, Forces Commander, and Air Vice Marshall Gavin Turnbull, Air Commander Australia.

### RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Commemoration Service

Almost 1500 pupils representing a number of primary and secondary schools, both public and private, assembled at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park on 5 April to take part in the annual RSL and Schools Remember ANZAC Commemoration service, a service that has been held since 1953.



The St Andrew's Cathedral School choir and orchestra provided music while the cadet guard was drawn from Waverley College. The master of ceremonies was Cara Fagan from Lore to Normanhurst, the ANZAC Address was delivered eloquently by Laura Chapman from Gilroy Catholic College, Patrick Stellino of Marcellin College provided the reading and the prayer for peace was led by Hugh Bartley from Sydney Boys High School.

Special mention must be made of the perfect sounding of Last Post and Reveille by bugler Thomas Bootes from St Andrew's Cathedral School, and the haunting Lament performed by Robert Fenton-Lee of the Scots College Pipes and Drums.

The conduct of the service was a credit to those who attended and laid wreaths on behalf of their schools.





## Evolution of the League in Queensland

2016 was a year of great transformation and growth for RSL (Queensland Branch). With a significant review of the performance of the organisation and an in-depth business plan developed throughout late 2015/early 2016, we were able to begin implementation of the plan throughout 2016.

The first, and one of the of major projects, to come out of the business plan into fruition this year was the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, which will effectively be the technological base for many of our programs across the organisation. Initially implemented in our finance department to upgrade from a small business accounting system to a mature system that is more suited to our mid-enterprise sized organisation, the ERP will help us to better understand and manage our obligations to the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission, providing an unprecedented level of clarity into understanding our expenditures.

The ERP will not only assist to manage the records of the financial turnover that we have, but will eventually role out across the organisation to enable complex processes to be managed more simply. Many of the day-to-day activities of our staff will begin to move over to the platform in 2017, and into the following years we will see other departments introduce relevant programs via the ERP to enable the organisation as a whole to be more nimble and efficient. The benefits to be felt most by our members and the wider Defence Community are likely to come from the Memberships department and the Veteran Services team, whose database will be streamlined to ensure the accurate, timely and most suitable service delivery to veterans.

Improving our technology and our ability to be connected with veterans across the state is crucial in **ensuring we remain current and flexible in today's world**, and able to adapt more efficiently to future changes. This has been at the forefront of our work throughout the year, as we continue to undertake an enterprise-wide evolution. We have developed and implemented a number of programs in Queensland that have the ability to be rolled out across the country, ensuring that every veteran, regardless of where they are located, is able to be supported by their locally based RSL branch.

A project of this scale takes significant time and financial investment, however the results, progressively and overall, will enable us to meet the evolving needs of our veteran community more efficiently, and ultimately be more adaptable to the changes and challenges that the coming years will bring.

## Veteran Services, Support and Engagement Overview of 2016

2016 proved to be a year of many challenges and successes, but for RSL (Queensland Branch) it was a year of growth and giving, with the development and

implementation of a number of new veteran support programs, increased funding to ongoing issues in the wider Defence community, and an unprecedented level of engagement across the state. Here we look at some **of the key highlights of RSL (Queensland Branch)'s work** in the Defence community in 2016.

- 11,00 welfare activities to benefit veterans
- 9,000 interviews conducted by Veteran Services Officers and volunteers
- 3,200 **veteran's claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs**
- 8,300 hospital and home visits
- 200 veterans supported in tribunal appeals
- 100 schools across the state preserved the memory of those who have served through the RSL Community Link program

## ADF Engagement

In 2016, RSL (Queensland Branch) supported both on and off-base engagement activities and programs that directly engage with currently serving personnel and their families.

Through the Welcome Home Parade and RSL Queensland Family Fun Day in honour of the 7th Brigade Middle East Region Force Elements, held in Brisbane in September, RSL (Queensland Branch) engaged with over 1,000 currently serving personnel from 7th Brigade and their families.



RSL Queensland Family Fun Day

Similarly, RSL (Queensland Branch) supported the RSL Centenary Lavarack Open Day, hosted by 3rd Brigade in Townsville. Home to 4,500 soldiers, the Lavarack Barracks were open to the public to strengthen community engagement, and as the major sponsor of the day, RSL (Queensland Branch) had a strong presence, encouraging ties with the Defence community in the garrison city.

Other engagement activities included involvement at **'Welcome To' events held at Defence bases in Brisbane, Amberley, Townsville and Kanangra**, where Veteran Services staff and local Sub Branch volunteers attended

to provide information and advice to the personnel who were new to the area.

## Warhaven

Following a three-year planning and development period, the Warhaven housing complex in Cairns, Far North Queensland, has been completed, with the \$18million project to open to tenants in 2017. The facility will provide both long and short-term housing for the veteran community, with a number of tenants of the previous facility to be joined by new tenants.

With 74 units across two three-storey buildings, the complex also includes emergency accommodation for current and former Defence Force personnel who are in need of crisis housing, as well as common areas, library, barbecue facilities, and a community garden.

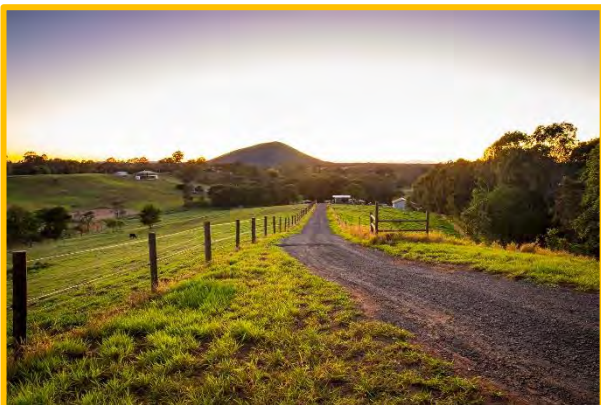
Access to quality, affordable housing is an issue facing many Australians, and we recognise that veterans are not untouched by this issue. The Warhaven housing complex is just one facility operated by RSL (Queensland Branch) that provides housing to veterans across the state, including facilities located in Ayr, Mareeba, Yeppoon, Emu Park, Mt Perry and Gayndah.

## ESO Engagement

RSL (Queensland Branch) was instrumental in bringing together more than 70 representatives from the Department of Defence, **Department of Veterans' Affairs**, and ex-service organisations (ESOs) to take a collaborative approach to assisting the Defence community with issues such as PTSD, suicide, financial hardship and homelessness. The ESO Forums held throughout the year provided an opportunity to present a collective voice for the issues facing veterans and the wider Defence community.

## Partnerships

In 2016, RSL (Queensland Branch) extended the support we provide to programs assisting veterans at the coalface by partnering with **Digger's Rest and 3rd Brigade's Human Performance Framework**.



**Digger's Rest is located on 22 acres of bushland in Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast hinterland, and provides free-of-charge accommodation for Defence personnel, past and present, and their families who feel the need to reset their minds and reconnect. With support from RSL (Queensland Branch), Digger's Rest were able to accommodate visits from 198 people with a total of 262 nights slept in the first six months of 2016 alone.**

The Human Performance Framework is a 3rd Brigade initiative that is designed to enhance the resilience of our soldiers and their families. The framework builds resilience by delivering welfare services, personal and professional development, recovery and rehabilitation, community engagement and education services. RSL (Queensland Branch) is proud to be the Major Support Partner of this ground-breaking initiative that is delivered across three centres, including the Vasey Resilience Centre, within the Brigade.



Vasey Resilience Centre

In addition to these new partnerships in 2016, RSL (Queensland Branch) **continued our support of Trojan's Trek and the RSL RAEMUS Rover program.**

## Scholarships

In 2016, RSL (Queensland Branch) launched a \$500,000 scholarship program for dependants of veterans, to assist with furthering their education through the **Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT)** program. The scholarship program will support 35 people through tertiary education and training from 2017.





## New staff

RSL SA welcomed new staff member, Corey Starkey, in June 2016. Corey, a returned serviceman, who joined the Branch staff as the Director of Operations, said that it was a great honour to become part of the team and to participate in a number of programs that were introduced throughout the second part of the year.

## RSL-SA Art Exhibition

Art therapy has been a hot topic for aiding in the treatment of PTS and to acknowledge the importance of Art Therapy the RSL held an Art Exhibition at Torrens Parade Ground.



The RSL-SA Centenary Art Exhibition, 'Ripples of Reflection' Opening Night, Silent Auction and media associated with the event were beyond our expectations. Over 450 people visited the exhibition and we are aware of new artists who would like to be involved next year.



As a result of the exhibition we now have a regular arts workshop on Thursday nights from 6.00pm with mentoring from John Blines.

## Ghost Soldiers

In November our Events Coordinator created a new initiative for SA by implementing "Ghost Soldiers" in order to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Groups of people were dressed as soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses from the Boer War through to the current conflicts to pose in small groups in Rundle Mall and Adelaide Railway Station. The soldiers stood motionless while commuters walk past.



When a member of the public walked past, the soldiers did not speak, but simply handed over a card with the details of a fallen soldier that they represented. The card was used to generate an emotional response with the person.



Reaction from the general public was one of great support for the living tribute to the fallen men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The great efforts that went in to representation of ghost soldiers from the distant past to current conflicts was recognised and appreciated by members of the public.

The media response helped us to raise awareness for the Poppy Appeal, which saw higher than average donations received for the appeal.



# Tasmania Branch Report

## State Congress

The 101st Annual State Congress was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2016 at the Country Club Tasmania in Launceston. Mr Adam Mostogl, 2015 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year officially opened the Congress. The theme of his opening address was "Change".



Adam Mostogl  
2015 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year

The Congress was well attended with 60 delegates from 35 Sub-Branched; approximately 60

Official Guests from within Tasmania and across the Nation; and 50 Observers.

Official Guests at the Congress included the RSL National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), National CEO, Mrs Sam Jackman, the RSL State Presidents and other members from Victoria, Queensland, ACT and NSW, and

- Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for **Veterans'** Affairs
- Hon David Feeney MP, Shadow Minister for **Veterans'** Affairs
- Mr Andrew Nikolic AM CSC MP, Federal Member for Bass
- Mr Guy Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
- The Hon Scott Bacon MP, Labour Member for Denison
- Alderman Albert van Zetten, Mayor of the City of Launceston
- MAJGEN Mark Kelly AO DSC (Retd), Repatriation Commissioner
- Mr Craig Orme, Deputy President, Repatriation Commission
- CMDR John Hodges RAN (Retd), Chairman NVAC
- Professor Nick Saunders, Chairperson RMA
- Mr. Paul Murdoch, Registrar RMA
- Mr Glen Menezes, A/Deputy Commissioner Tasmania, DVA
- Mr Doug Humphreys, Principal Member VRB
- Ms Katrina Harry, National Registrar VRB
- Brigadier John Withers, Senior Defence Force Officer - TAS
- CMDR Lewis Gaha RAN, Senior Naval Officer - TAS
- LTCOL Shaun Harding, Senior Army Officer - TAS
- WGCDR Deborah Phillips, Senior Air Force Officer - TAS

## League Awards

During the Congress, a number of League Awards were presented:

### Meritorious Medal

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr Geoffrey Ralph        | Ulverstone Sub Branch     |
| Life Membership          |                           |
| Mr David Taylor          | Kingston Beach Sub Branch |
| Mr Hans Piatek           | Launceston Sub Branch     |
| Mr John Wallace          | Launceston Sub Branch     |
| Mr David Waddle          | South Arm Sub Branch      |
| Mr Robert Dick           | RSL Tasmania State Branch |
| <b>Mr Graham O'Toole</b> | Oatlands Sub Branch       |

### Long Service Award (50 Year Certificate)

- Mr David Moles DFM
- Mr Robert Sackley

Sub Branch Charters were also presented to:

- Railton Sub Branch
- Westbury RSL Sub Branch Inc.

The business of State Congress is to address and progress those topics/events and/or entitlements which affect veterans, ex-service or current serving members of the ADF and their dependents. Of the nine Motions tabled, all were discussed and carried during the Congress. RSL Tasmania has progressed the issues through the appropriate channels.

## Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge

During the period 19-22 May 2016, a team of 10 Army Cadets from Tasmania headed to Queensland to compete in the Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge (CACTC) held between Enoggera Barracks and Green Bank Training Area. This competition is run every year with teams from across the country taking part vying for the ultimate prize **of winning the Chief of Army's trophy.**

The competition runs for 72hrs and consists of approximately 20 stands. Cadets are tested in areas of Teamwork, Navigation, First Aid, Engineering, and Radio Communication to name a few. Cadets also participated in a high robes above water obstacle course and a live fire shoot all with minimal sleep during the activities.



The 2016 winners

Tasmania makes up 1% of Cadets throughout the Country and after much intense waiting Tasmania; for the **first time ever was announced as this year's winning team. The winner's trophy was presented to the team** from the Chief of Army; Lieutenant General Angus Campbell. The Cadets also received a Gold Commendation from the Commander of the Australian Army Cadets.

The RSL Tasmania sponsor the Cadets with their team shirts and the Cadets are very grateful for the continued support from the RSL.

## RSL Tasmania Emergency Services 'Volunteer of the Year' Awards

This is the third year we have presented these special awards. The awards are open to members of the Tasmanian Police, Tasmania Fire Service, Ambulance Tasmania and SES Tasmania. Nominations are submitted from our RSL Sub Branches in recognition for a **volunteer's ongoing commitment and for displaying the qualities of the 'ANZAC Spirit'**. The 2015 winners were presented with their awards at the Australian Institute of Emergency Services – Tasmania Division 'PJ Parssey' Award Night held on 20 February at the Balmoral Motor Inn, Hobart.

Regional winners were:

North West Region

Steve Webster, Tasmanian Fire Service – Penguin

Northern Region

Greg Knight – Ambulance Tasmania – Longford

Southern Region

Paul Wilson – Ambulance Tasmania – Oatlands

The overall State winner and recipient of the perpetual shield was Paul Wilson, Ambulance Tasmania – Oatlands. We congratulate and commend all the winners and salute your dedication and courage.



L-R: Greg Knight, Robert Dick, Paul Wilson and Steve Webster

## RSL Tasmania & United Petroleum Partnership Fuel Discount Program

We are very pleased to announce to our readers the recent RSL Tasmania & United Petroleum Partnership Fuel Discount Program. This is something we have been working on for some months, after being approached by Mr Andrew English, the United Petroleum Marketing Manager.

Following is the content of a Press Release sent out in early October by Mr English:

***"The RSL Tasmania Branch has established a partnership with United Petroleum, Australia's largest independent fuel network, to combat Tasmania's high fuel prices.***

*The offer will deliver to RSL Tasmania members a six cents per litre discount commencing 6th October at United sites across the state year-round.*

*United Petroleum Marketing Manager, Andrew English said that as an independent, Australian-owned company, they were proud to offer better value at the bowser for Tasmanians.*

*"This discount will be available at all of our Tasmanian sites ensuring that we can supply the most competitively priced fuel across the state and in key locations where RSL members need it."*

*"Simply present your RSL/United Card at one of our stores when purchasing fuel to save at the bowser," Mr English said.*

*"We believe that our serving and ex-service members deserve more than just commemoration, they deserve the care and support they need to live happy and healthy lives."*

*The RSL is one of Australia's most respected organizations, providing a crucial service for returned servicemen and women as well as to those currently serving in the ADF and their families, and that's why United Petroleum and its staff are proud to give the RSL and its members the support it needs.*

*The new RSL member card will be distributed to over 4,000 RSL Tasmania Service and Affiliate Members over the coming weeks."*



L-R: United Petroleum Tasmanian State Manager, Simon Wise and RSL Tasmania State President, Robert Dick

The program is open to all RSL Tasmania Life, Service and Affiliate members. You only need to show your new Membership Card (which displays the United Petroleum logo in the right hand corner) in order to receive your discount. Social members who wish to avail themselves of the latest member benefit should consider their eligibility to become an Affiliate member of their Sub Branches.

## Tasmanian Headstone Project Project Overview

RSL Tasmania Branch is proud to become a major sponsor to the Tasmanian Headstone Project. The Project members are a sub-committee of the Families and Friends of the First A.I.F. Inc. Several years ago it came to their attention that there were First World War veterans lying in unmarked graves at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart as well as many other cemeteries around the State. Through research the number located stands at around 275. Further research may show more in the months to come. The Tasmanian Headstone Project was set up to make sure that these men were recognized in an appropriate way at their point of burial,

currently through the provision of a simple pedestal headstone. Many of these men and women, in most cases, do not qualify for a Government sponsored war grave.



RSL Tasmania has come on board with a substantial offer of financial support for the project. Mrs Andrea Gerrard, Chairperson, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the RSL Tasmania State Branch on 10 November 2015, securing \$5,000 per annum for the next three years.

It is hoped to get at least the 200 headstones needed at Cornelian Bay Cemetery made and installed. This will give an enormous boost to the project. It is further hoped with this assistance that the target of completing Cornelian Bay Cemetery by Remembrance Day 2019 will be met.

### Background to the Project

To date 254 men have been identified as returned First World War soldiers who lie in unmarked graves. These graves are located at the Cornelian Bay Cemetery near Hobart. There are also about a dozen names of other men who also lie in unmarked graves in various cemeteries around the State. This is before any concerted effort has been made to look outside of Cornelian Bay. This number includes four men of Aboriginal heritage who are buried at Carr Villa Cemetery. There are two at Cygnet, one at Bothwell, one at St. Mary's, one at Longford and another at Campania. By current estimate there are between 500 and 600 men in Tasmanian cemeteries who are First World War veterans and lie in unmarked graves.

The reasons for this are many and include:

- Last member of the family with no near relatives i.e. brothers or sisters;
- Moved here from interstate or elsewhere and no known family;
- Estranged from family;

- Family were unaware that they needed to apply for a war grave;
- Family lacked sufficient expertise to fill in the paper work and weren't given an assistance to do so;
- Ineligible for a Commonwealth funded war grave – death not war related including those who died of an accident such as a vehicle accident or drowning
- Family not in any financial position to afford a headstone at the time of death and the matter put aside until later



Members of the Australian Army assist during the Last Post

To date the Tasmanian Headstone Project has been able to put in 21 pedestal headstones with the assistance of donations from a variety of sources. Millington Cemeteries have waived their fees and provide maps etc as well as helping by submitting the texts to the foundry. The number of graves and total now completed will have altered by the time this article goes to print.



RSL Tasmania State President, Robert Dick assists with the unveiling of a plaque





# Victorian Branch Report

2016 has been a year of both change and continuity in our endeavours and a few particular challenges. During 2016 we sadly lost our CFO, Mark Sherlock, a great servant of the League and someone whose long service and deep corporate knowledge will be missed. **Mark's** sound management of the Branch finances and his development of a very capable financial, property and commercial team will stand us in good stead for years to come. Mark also acted as the CEO until June 2016 when Mike Annett returned from active service in Afghanistan and enabled a smooth transition as Mike took up the reins again. **On Mike's** return a fresh impetus to adapt and deliver new services to meet contemporary **Veterans' needs was evident and the State President, David McLachlan** was effective in ensuring our efforts to assist those Veterans was understood and supported by the wider community.

## Governance

The Branch went to new lengths to ensure our internal affairs are well managed, transparent and fully compliant with the range of regulators we work with, Consumer Affairs Victoria, the State gaming and liquor authorities, the ATO and also the ACNC. Our good governance is critical and always reviewed and new staff, processes and guidance have all made a significant difference this year. Equally important, the appropriate expenditure of the funds raised from the ANZAC Appeal and Poppy Appeal, the money the public give us to help Veterans and families, is core to our integrity, credibility and effectiveness and reinforcement of the key principles around using these funds has been done in 2016.

Notable outcomes in these areas have been achieved through an unprecedented level of workshops and briefing to Sub-Branches across all regions this year, and corporate governance training for all larger Sub-Branch Committees, reinforced by a new manual with ACNC endorsed guidance on charity expenditure which has been very well received.

## Commemoration

2016 has been a great year of commemoration for the League and the Branch in particular, marking a **centenary since the conference that led to the RSL's** establishment being held in Melbourne in 1916. We accordingly hosted the Centenary National Conference in Melbourne in June with the Governor General and Prime **Minister in attendance. The Branch's own Centenary Awards Dinner** at the Sofitel in November was a massive celebration of a century, with over 1000 in attendance and the Governor General as our principal guest. Our State Conference in July was also a strongly attended activity with a constructive and harmonious atmosphere, with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr Dan Tehan opening proceedings. Our ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day activities were strongly supported by the community and Vietnam Veterans were honoured for

their service in 2016, being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Long Tan.

## Veterans' Support

2016 has been a notable year for a number of evolutionary steps in continuing to provide a strong base of relevant support services and activities for all generation of Veterans in our core business. The Victorian Government has committed to an initial target of 250 jobs for Veterans in the public sector and the League will work with Government to fill these and provide more transition and employment support into 2017. The new RSL Active program will be funded by both State Government and the Branch, and run a whole series of sporting and creative activities to mitigate social isolation and related issues in our contemporary Veterans community. Planning and pilot programs ran through 2016 with delivery intended to start in early 2017. We have continued to get strong public support for our appeals and this will help all our existing welfare and advocacy work as well as resource new ones. Our homeless Veteran accommodation project in Richmond is now at steady state and a number of Veterans who would otherwise have been homeless and devoid of hope to turn around their situation, have been helped. We will look to expand the number of these units available in 2017.

## Regional Veteran Centre Project

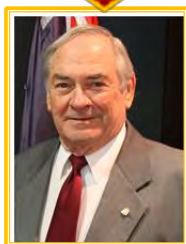
The Regional Veteran Centre Project, a huge success in co-operation between RSL and the VVAA for over twenty years is due to be reviewed and this is timely with new methods and content of welfare/pension officer training being introduced. The Veterans Centres have served the Vietnam Veterans well but new models will be required to meet the needs of the next generation. As always, the relationship between Legacy and the RSL is strong and 2016 has seen renewed emphasis on better support for our volunteer network as Sub-Branches receive specialist advice and support from ANZAC House in recruiting, rewarding and retaining our outstanding volunteers.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, 2016 has been a year worthy of positive reflection, despite challenges and surprises along the way. The strong and principled leadership of the State President and Executive, a very committed and capable staff team at ANZAC House and in our Sub-Branches and the dedication of thousands of volunteers across the network has made it all possible. Our membership, especially Affiliates, continues to grow. We look to the challenges of 2017, in particular the engagement with our younger Veteran cohort, with confidence and conviction in our core purpose.







Peter Aspinall  
WA State President

2016 was a year that saw the realisation of two major initiatives and significant progress in a third. All three have had a lengthy gestation period, two of them going back some 5 years or more. All three initiatives

are dramatic game changers to the future direction of RSLWA. These initiatives are:

1. Litigation initiated to seek recompense for the sale of **RSLWA's aged care facilities for what was significantly below market value;**
2. The return, by the State Government, of the freehold title to the land on which ANZAC House is located; and
3. Application to the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission for Deductible Gift Recipient Status and the establishment of a RSLWA foundation through which sponsorship and donated funds will be used for welfare and advocacy activities across Western Australia. Granting of DGR status is expected in the first half of 2017.

## RACA Litigation

Settlement resulted in a substantial financial agreement **in RSLWA's favour. This sum, coupled with a negotiated** payout of the residual portion of the original RACA sale, some \$18M plus an amount representing the interest foregone, has provided RSLWA with an investment opportunity from which the ongoing viability of the Branch is assured.

This financial investment allows RSLWA to fully underwrite the outcome of the second initiative that has been achieved.

## ANZAC House Freehold Title

The previous State President, the Hon Graham Edwards AM, recognised an opportunity existed during the centenary of ANZAC and the centenary of RSLWA for the State Government to return to RSLWA the freehold title to the land on which ANZAC House stood. Contingent on the return of the Title were plans to demolish the existing ANZAC House, which has been vastly outgrown by the requirements of RSLWA and for which renovation was impractical, and build a third generation ANZAC House.



The Title was returned on 9 November 2016 with a Development Application for a new ANZAC House approved, without qualification, by the City of Perth Council on 13 February this year. The Building Project timeline indicated the demolition of the existing ANZAC House in April 2017, building commenced September 2017 and occupation around September 2019.

ANZAC House mark III will be configured to become a **fully equipped, full service veterans' centre. While home** to RSLWA the primary focus of the new building is the veteran and his/her family, partners and dependants. To this end, all other Western Australian ESOs are being invited to participate/coordinate with us in ANZAC House.

## The 2020 Foundation

With the granting of DGR status expected to have been achieved in the first half of 2017, RSLWA will have the facility to substantially increase its support to the welfare and pension officers and advocates located in the Sub-Branches. This will be achieved through the funding of **a number of "veterans' centres" in the Perth** metropolitan area and selected country Sub-Branches serving a wide regional area.

Through the Foundation other initiatives will be supported including veteran related research projects, partnering/brokering additional veteran services, eg. independent living units, aged care facilities, financial planning services, etc.

## Membership

At the end of 2016 RSLWA had a total membership of 9,979. This includes 7,804 service members, life members, life subscribers and honorary members. There were a total of 2,175 affiliates.

During the year there were 240 financial members who passed away.

In 2015 RSLWA had a total of 10,035 members.

## Pensions and Advocacy

The Pension/Advocacy arm of RSLWA is serviced by one full time Advocate, one permanent part time Advocate, a Volunteer Advocate and a paid Casual Administrative Officer. The three Advocates assist veterans with **pensions, claims to DVA and appeals at the Veterans' Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.**

This past year has seen transition from RSL DefenceCare to RSLWA. We are continuing the connection with RSL DefenceCare in terms of software support for our client database. The database ensures that all of our current and future clients have a complete file with detailed notes, this is essential for recording all claims and tracking the progress of the claims process.

As the year has progressed we have seen an influx of enquiries regarding assistance needed with pensions and claims, many have been recommended to us by DVA and other ESOs.

## Welfare

This year has seen a worrying increase in the number of homeless veterans presenting for assistance with accommodation. With the downturn in the mining sector in WA and lack of employment opportunities we also have a number of veterans contacting RSLWA Welfare for assistance with outstanding mortgage repayments. This is often under the threat of foreclosure from their lenders.

Working in collaboration with other Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) presenting veterans, where possible, are assisted into short term crisis accommodation until something more permanent can be found.

**The WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund** assists by providing the required security bond and rent in advance when suitable accommodation is found. The Fund also assists veterans with the provision of other essential items that are beyond their budget, such as replacement of white goods, urgent car repairs, basic home furnishings and mobility equipment. The Fund also provides, situation specific, assistance with mortgage or rent arrears. A small monthly grant is paid to a number of veterans or widows experiencing ongoing hardship.

## Events

**It was a very busy year celebrating the RSLWA's Centenary.**

The annual Australia Day Awards and Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year Awards were held in January and well attended. Recipients of the Australia Day Awards were: David de Vos, Claire Hunt, Owen McClements and Malcolm Quekett. The top four winning Cadets received a paid trip to Canberra for the ANZAC Day Service at the Australian War Memorial.

ANZAC Day 2016 was challenging with the excessive rain but regardless of the season, weather or terrain the day went well. There was a great turn out despite the poor weather.

The 100th State Congress was held at the Crown Perth for the first time. A moving address was delivered by Mr David Singer, Vice President of the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch and our 2015 ANZAC Day Commemorative Service guest speaker. The ANZAC of the Year awards were presented to Claire Hunt and Owen McClements. Well attended by metropolitan and regional Sub-Branches.

The Congress continued into the evening with the RSLWA Centennial Ball with 550 members and sponsors attending. The night was an outstanding success with great feedback from guests and raising \$70,000 from sponsorships and the auctions.

RSLWA was included in Perth Heritage Day and held its second The Antiques Military Roadshow. This day gave members of the public the opportunity to visit ANZAC House for the last time. The visitors included a Receptionist who worked at ANZAC House in the 1980s and a 90 year old lady who used to attend the dances held in the original 1930s ANZAC House.

A sunny Remembrance Day was well attended by veterans, their families and general public and was the first official ceremony for the newly appointed State President and CEO. The official hand over to the new State Warden, Wing Commander Christine Pittman was conducted.

RSLWA was involved in many other events such as **'Welcome to the West', Bankwest Gallipoli Run, hosting His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão of Timor Leste, the Perth Royal Show, Veteran Health Week, the Korean Ambassador's Peace Medal Ceremony and Maritime Day.**

## Finance

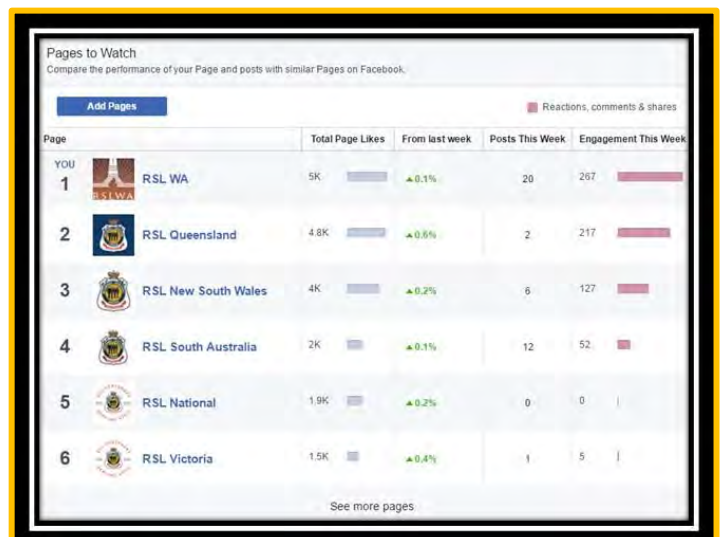
**Considerable work was undertaken in changing RSLWA's Reporting period from the tax fiscal year to calendar year in line with National's change of reporting period. The 2016 year has been a busy but productive period for the Finance and Compliance Committee ("FACC").**

Notwithstanding the change of reporting period, RSLWA has continued to maintain a high standard in financial management, governance and accountability. Comprehensive monthly reporting continues to be provided to the FACC and in turn, such Reports are then submitted to the Board of Directors at monthly Board meetings.

RSLWA was successful in its quest for the return of the land on which ANZAC House is located and which was previously owned by RSLWA. This has now paved the way for the demolition of the current ANZAC House and construction of a new building to meet the needs of RSLWA members and Sub-Branches well into the future.

## Social Media

RSLWA retains the Number 1 Facebook in Australia among all other RSLs. It had 4,971 likes at 15/02/2017. Its growth is phenomenal and has the highest levels of engagement week after week.



### *Looking forward...*

A contract has been signed to build and develop a brand new RSLWA website. This website is capable of delivering modern functionality across all platforms including mobiles and tablets, something our old site **doesn't provide. It will bring RSLWA's website in line** with others around Australia.

Functionality includes:

- Member login
- *The Listening Post/Sub-Branch Signal* electronic delivery
- Donation functionality
- The ability to pay memberships online
- The ability to book and request Advocacy and Welfare

To this end, finalising and executing the plans for the complete rebuilding of ANZAC House and pursuit of tax deductibility for donations to RSLWA are critical to **RSLWA's long term sustainability.**

In regard to the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act (ACNC), the FACC continues to ensure that RSLWA and its Sub-Branche remain compliant with the regulatory framework.

In terms of future operations of the FACC, one of the **goals in hand is to ensure that RSLWA's asset base grows** in real term and generates sufficient income to not only maintain and increase the value of assets but also to provide funds that can be used for the betterment of **RSLWA's membership.**

### Conclusion

Through the efforts of past State Presidents, Board members, CEOs and their staffs, 2016 has proven to be an historic year in the journey of RSLWA. We now have a financial security, a property security and an invigorated group of leaders and staff in RSLWA to provide the deserved level of support to our Sub-Branche and, through them, to the veteran community at large. 2017 will see a number of initiatives, large and small, that will showcase the direction that RSLWA is heading in its support of the veteran community





# National Trustees Report

## Meetings and Membership

The National Trustees met on 4 occasions during 2016 and considered some matters out of session. Significant support from the National Treasurer and from the Committee Secretary Mrs Jan Ormerod throughout the year is thankfully acknowledged. Jan is especially to be congratulated on her award of Life Membership of the RSL.

The National Trustees during 2016 were:

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

Committee members:

Mr Peter Eveille National Board Representative  
Mr David Sinclair National Treasurer  
Mrs Jan Ormerod Secretary

## Financial Situation

There are very few and limited donations made to the National Funds. The current low interest rates place pressure on several of the Funds to maintain their capital value and expected grants – indeed some are decreasing in value. This has been brought to the attention of the National Board with a request for that Board to approve a request for donations to the National Funds to be included in State newsletters. Several of these Funds have international and/or wide national involvement and place the RSL in high standing both internationally and nationally. Support to them from across the RSL is most appropriate for all elements of the RSL since they are among the very few RSL national activities that bring the RSL into good standing and recognition across the wider international and national spectrum.

The National Board reimposed after several years, the payment of Administrative Fees to National Office from each of the National Funds. This exacerbates the financial limitation in some Funds through low interest earnings in meeting the usual range of grants from interest earnings without recourse to use of capital funds or support from the RSL Foundation.

## Consolidation of Funds and Replacement of National Trustees

During 2016 the National Board resolved to consolidate all of the National Funds into one Fund based on the RSL Foundation. They also resolved to consider the replacement of the current National Trustees with Board appointments. The National Trustees were invited to make representation to the National Board on these matters and by the end of 2016 it is understood that the **matter continues to "lie on the table" among National Board considerations.**

## RSL & 6<sup>th</sup> Division Australian Hellenic Education Memorial Fund

2016 was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Crete. As a consequence and to follow the action taken for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, the National Trustees agreed to provide an extra scholarship to be awarded in Crete for 2016. This allowed a scholarship to be available to a student from each of the 3 sub regions of Heraklion, Rethymno and Chania. Funds from the RSL Foundation were used to supplement those from this Fund to meet the required grant. The grants from this Fund continue to receive appreciation from the Australian Ambassador to Greece. His support and that of his staff in arranging and making the presentation of the scholarships in Greece are most appreciated by the National Trustees.



From left to right: Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, Mr Perivolakis, father of Ms Evangelia Perivolaki awardee from Chania, Ambassador John Griffin and Ms Eirini Giakoumaki, awardee from Rethymno.

## National Welfare and Disaster Fund

The Welfare and Disaster Fund was wound up and assets transferred to the RSL Foundation. This accords with an earlier National Board requirement to consolidate Funds where appropriate.

## Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

This enduring Fund commemorating a signature event in the history of the RSL is supported annually from capitation payments from each RSL member as approved by the RSL Congress each year. It continues to support a significant number of activities beyond of the RSL itself as was its principal purpose when the Fund was established in 1966. Grants made during 2016 supported the following activities:

### a. RSL Scholarships

The Fund continued to provide annual support in 2016 for two RSL Scholarships, each of \$4000 per annum for a period of up to 3 years study, depending on the length of the course, and provided that recipients continue to meet acceptable academic standards and the their needy financial situation remains. A report on the results from students who are currently RSL Scholarship awardees showed that each had maintained

exemplary academic results, which was pleasing. The scholarships are administered through the **Australian Veterans Children's Trust (AVCAT)** with final approval for each scholarship holder being made through the Trustees Committee. An administrative fee is paid to AVCAT each year.

b. Reg Saunders Scholarships

Reg Saunders scholarships are awarded to indigenous students who through their study and intention to support their communities are considered to be a potential asset in assisting and developing indigenous communities. One Reg Saunders scholarship was awarded through the Batchelor Institute in the Northern Territory in 2016. Expectation to award a second scholarship through the same Institute are still in progress. Students previously nominated by the Batchelor Institute in earlier years appear to have done well academically.

c. RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships

The RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships are awarded to two financially challenged year 11 students attending the Port Moresby Grammar School to allow them to complete years 11 and 12 of their secondary studies. Each scholarship is approximately of \$4000 per year depending on exchange rates. The scholarships are administered through the Port Moresby Grammar School with final approvals being made through the Trustees Committee. The involvement of the Port Moresby RSL Sub branch in the administration of these scholarships is appreciated. Two scholarships were awarded in 2016 and will continue through 2017 provided the selected students continue in satisfactory academic standing and remain financially challenged. The two students supported through 2014-15 have progressed to tertiary level education which is pleasing.

d. Medical Student Exchanges

The National Trustees continued to support the exchanges of medical student arranged through the University of Sydney Northern Medical School (Fiji and PNG) and the Hoc Mai Foundation (Vietnam). This is a most worthy cause which has continued for many years. It continues to be well appreciated by the Medical School and the Hoc Mai Foundation and reports from students undertaking the exchanges are most encouraging.

e. Kapyong Scholarships

Funds from two sub accounts opened from donations to the Fund several years ago from the Australian Korea Society and the Korean War Memorial Trust Fund continue to support the provision of \$US2700 for two RSL Kapyong Scholarships made each year to students of the Gapeyong secondary and middle schools in South Korea. The assistance of the Australian Defence Attaché from the Australian Embassy in Seoul in administering these scholarships and their presentation is much appreciated.

## Mona Tait & May Hayman Memorial Fund

The Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund named in memory of two nurses murdered by Japanese Forces during World War II, supports a scholarship to be presented to a student nurse in high standing at the completion of year 1 of their studies while attending the Nursing School at the Canberra University. The Canberra School of Nursing recommends a selected student to the National Trustees for the award. This Fund needs considerable capital support. It has recorded earnings of \$158 in 2016. The National Trustees agreed to provide a scholarship of \$1000 (as a meaningful amount) for 2016. Essentially this will be drawn from the RSL Foundation.

The provision of extra capital for this Fund from sources beyond the RSL were pursued but without success so far. Should any contributors require naming rights this will not be allowed, although recognition of any donation should be recorded on the RSL website.

## Mountbatten Memorial Fund

The earnings of the Fund for 2016 were forwarded to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) as required in the deed. However, decreasing interest return has meant that the support this Fund is able to provide to support ex-members of local British Forces in disadvantaged countries and/or their dependants has diminished correspondingly.

## RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Australia Trust

There have been no demands on this Fund except the payment of Administrative fees. The National Treasurer advised the National Trustees at their meeting on 25 May that the National Board had withdrawn its request of the Trustees that they pay the earnings of the RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Trust to the National Office each year against certified welfare costs incurred by that Office.

## RSL Foundation

It is pleasing to note that the RSL Foundation continues to receive limited donations. The National Trustees are generally aware of attempts through National Office to seek donations from sponsors. In these circumstances those involved in such arrangements are advised that the National Trustees will not accept fettered funds into the RSL Foundation. The Fund continues to support grants made across a wide variety of requirements.

JOHN SHELDRIK  
Chairman





# National Veterans' Affairs Committee Report

The National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC) is charged with advising the National Executive on all matters pertaining to assistance and care of serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. Membership of the committee is drawn from all States and Territories as nominated by the respective State President/Board.

## Priority Proposals

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

### 1. Medical Reports

That the maximum reimbursable cost of obtaining **additional medical evidence for a Veterans' Review Board (VRB)** hearing be increased from \$475 to \$1,000 and indexed to CPI annually.

### 2. Medicare Indexation Freeze

**That the Department of Veterans' Affairs ensures that during the Medicare Indexation Freeze, Local Medical Officers (LMO's) and Allied Health Professionals are adequately compensated under Legislation for the treatment of Repatriation Health Card holders.**

### 3. 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.**

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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.

### 6. 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).**

### 7. 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

### 8. 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.**

### 9. 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.

### 10. 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.

### 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.**

## Meetings

**National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC) meetings are held every quarter and all members are 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.

## Committee Members

Mr John Hodges	Chair
MAJGEN David McLachlan	Deputy Chair
Mr Jeff Jackson	VIC
Mr Scott Rogers	WA
Mr Scott Denner	QLD
Ms Robyn Collins	NSW
Mr James Dallas	NSW
Mr Jim Gilchrist	ACT
Mr Alex Dick	TAS
Mr Steve Ceissman	SA
Dr Graeme Killer	Medical Advisor
Ms Jackie Morris	Secretary

JOHN M HODGES  
Chairman



## Introduction

The committee met five times during 2016 – February, April, August, October and December - with the June meeting cancelled due to the Annual Conference in Melbourne. One of our members, Anthony Bergin, decided to step down after more than 12 years of valuable service to the committee and a replacement nomination is being sought to put forward to the National President.

**The ADF's commitment to the Middle East continued** throughout 2016 with a particular focus on Syrian and Iraq. Russian support for the Syrian Government continued and we saw the deployment of a Russian Carrier Group down past the UK and into the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey continued to trend away from a secular Government with an attempted coup being brutally put down. Terrorism continues as a global threat with the worst example being the mass killings from the attack in France.

The two most significant and unplanned events of 2016 would have to be the Brexit vote result and the election of Donald Trump as the next US President. The impacts of both these events will take some time to fully appreciate but both are expected to have far reaching implications.

On a more regional level, the South China Sea issue continues to be a significant security issue for Australia and the region. The election of Rodrigo Duterte as the Philippines new President has seen that country drift closer to China and is already affecting the previous close relationship with long term ally USA. And closer to home, riots in Jakarta against the Christian mayor may **threaten Indonesia's ability to remain a secular and tolerant society.**

## White Paper

**The key event for 2016 was the Government's tabling of the Defence White Paper in February.** The White Paper **maintained the Government's commitment to a Defence Budget of 2% GDP by the early to mid-2020s** despite budget pressures elsewhere. It is a long term plan with the main drivers being regional militarisation, cyber security, terrorism and China's posture in the South China Sea. There were no real surprises as much of the information had already announced or foreshadowed. Major capabilities underway or to be introduced over the next 20 plus years include:

- 12 new submarines to replace the Collins Class
- 9 ASW Frigates
- 12 Off-shore Patrol Vessels
- The possibility of a third support vessel
- Large Hulled Multi-purpose Patrol Vessel for border protection
- 10 C27Js – being delivered
- C130J upgrades
- 15 P8s (an increase of 7 on what had previously been announced)

- 7 MQ-4C Tritons
- **Up to 5 "EW Support" aircraft based** on the G550 airframe.
- 12 F18Gs – already underway as a program
- 2 additional KC30 tankers (also underway) to bring the total to 7 with the outside chance of another 2 at some time in the future
- 3 additional CH47s (LOA signed)
- 72 F35s
- Armed UAVs (probably Predator)

Along with the White Paper, the Government also released a comprehensive Defence Industry Policy Statement and an integrated investment Plan. The latter document replaced what has been previously known as the Defence Capability Plan. Capability was broken down into six streams – ISR, EW, Space and Cyber; Air and Sea Lift; Maritime and Anti-submarine Warfare; Strike and Air Combat; Land Combat and Amphibious Warfare; and Key Enablers. While FY 2016/17 had more detail than the later years, the plan outlined the program timeframe in each stream from introduction through to disposal and gave an indication of the approximate investment value. The Committee considered the White Paper a significant improvement on the 2009 and 2013 documents and while coverage of China seemed somewhat superficial, improvement in the detail of the **ADF's capability plans was very welcome.** Other issues of note were the ability to man 12 future submarines and the imperative for Australian Industry to effectively sustain national capabilities, particularly the Submarine Force.

## First principles Review Update

The First Principles Review into organisation of Defence was released in 2015. At its April meeting, the Defence Committee was privileged to have Ms Roxanne Kelly, First Assistant Secretary for Governance and Reform, and AVM Neil Hart, from the First Principles Review **Team, deliver an update on the Review's implementation.** Decision making and accountability are being strengthened with role charters for the senior leadership group, the capability process is being redesigned, project approval processes are being streamlined to better reflect complexity, and VCDF has been given greater **accountability in his role as CDF's deputy.** Defence is using a voluntary redundancy program to reshape middle management levels as a part of a strategic workforce plan. Apart from the formation of the Capability and Sustainment Group (CASG) to replace the former Defence Materiel Organisation, other significant organisational changes were the formation of Industry and Contestability Divisions independent of CASG.

## Defence Capability

Not surprisingly, 2016 has been an eventful year for **Navy's capability.** **Of the three** short listed submarine designers – Japan, Germany (TKMS) and France (DCNS), DCNS was selected as the preferred designer following the competitive evaluation. As mentioned in the 2015

report, the Government has mandated the AN/BYG-1 Combat System and the Mark 48 Torpedo for the new fleet. Lockheed Martin was selected over Raytheon as the Combat System Integrator in a separate competitive evaluation process.

The Government also announced the shortlist for the 12 Off-shore Vessels (OPVs) and the 9 Future Frigates (FFs). The OPV RFT was released in November to the OPV shortlist - Damen (Holland), Fassmer (Germany) and Luerssen (Germany) with the final down select due this year (2017) and with a planned project start of 2018. The FF RFT is yet to be released to the shortlisted companies, the chosen vessels being the BAE Type 26, the Fincantieri Fremm, and the Navantia F100. This project is expected to commence in 2020.

On the Land front, there were developments in two of **Army's major programs**. The teams for Land 400 Phase 2 (ASLAV replacement) have been narrowed to two – Rhinemetall and Bae Systems – with the GD Land Systems/Thales team being eliminated. And Land 53 Phase 1BR program for Night Fighting Equipment was **awarded to L3's Warrior Systems Sector**. Earlier in the year, the Committee was fortunate to have Army's Head of Modernisation and Strategic Planning, MAJGEN 'Gus' McLachlan, deliver a presentation on Army's plans for a well-developed Army for the future. He described Land 400 – Phase 2 mentioned above and Phase 3 (M113 Replacement) - **as a major investment in Army's future**, although the latter program is still some years off. He said the upgraded Chinook program is on time but recognised there were still issues with fully integrating the fleet. He also saw the need for an anti-access/area denial capability through a medium range anti-aircraft system and surface-to-surface rockets. During his presentation, he updated the committee on the progress of Plan Beersheba, namely:

- Balancing out the 3 combat brigades;
- Reinforcement or re-creation of specialist brigades;
- Improvements in intelligence, EW and cyber capabilities;
- The importance of a force generation cycle that can be sustained over time;
- Digitisation of Army - modernising mission command capabilities:
  - These are contained in the integrated investment plan;
  - Work is ongoing to enable an increased tempo;

For the Air Force, C27 deliveries continue with the Air Force Chief declaring Initial operating capability for the Battlefield Airlifter in December. The P8 program continues to progress with the initial cadre of crews finishing their training with the USN in Jacksonville in Florida and with the first aircraft touching down in Australia in mid- **November**. **11 Squadron's AP3Cs were transferred to 10 Squadron in December**, with the squadron becoming the first P8 Squadron that month.

With respect to enabling capabilities, retired MAJGEN Stephen Day gave a comprehensive brief on Cyber at the Committee's August meeting. He described cyber as a means to an end – a vector through which you can achieve outcomes and it is what you can do through

cyber as a vector that matters. He also emphasised that it is important that the vector is owned by ADF operators, not the IT folks. Cyber will open up windows of opportunity in areas not yet thought of and the potential uses are only limited by imagination. And as cyber further extends the battlespace, the character of war will change. For example, it can be used for:

- Reconnaissance and surveillance;
- Psychological operations;
- Physical destruct effects; and
- Anything or anyone connected with cyber can be effected;

MAJGEN Day also described the range of cyber threats and reminded us that what we can do, others can do to us. Cyber threats can come from Nation states seeking sensitive diplomatic and national security information; economic information (acting against our businesses more so than against governments); sensitive board decisions; and provides an increased ability to undertake reconnaissance activity against almost any target. Aside from nation states, sources of such threats are numerous and include criminal organisations (their activities are global and lucrative and banks are part of their target set), terrorists, and Issue motivated groups aiming to embarrass the target and to raise publicity about their issue. There was also concern about some of the developing countries in the Pacific area and their involvement with foreign nations.

Following his briefing, the committee had a wide ranging discussion on cyber issues pertinent to Defence covering potential threats to Defence, including cyber security arrangements for new capabilities and cyber security arrangements for joint projects. MAJGEN Day pointed out that Australia is at the forefront of combating cyber security issues but faced a challenge in recruiting and retaining quality technicians and experts in the cyber field.

## Geopolitical Issues

In December, the Committee welcomed former Defence Deputy Secretary Intelligence and Security and retired MAJGEN Steve Meekin. His presentation focussed on Russia, the election of Donald Trump, and the situation in Syria.

In Russia, although the economy and exports remain a concern, there still seems to be significant investment in Defence, particularly modernisation, quality of equipment and Improvements in doctrine. And Putin would be encouraged by recent events across the globe, including Brexit, the success of Russian operations in Syria, the election of Donald Trump, the potential French Election Results, tensions in Europe, and the potential for reductions in sanctions. For the future, there a range of issues that will affect Russia and her view of the world, including their Syrian experience, previously 'frozen' conflicts and the possibility of re-escalation, disputes with Japan about sovereignty of island territories, the **dispersion of the former USSR's industrial power, and Russia's relationship with China and North Korea**. Similarly, there are issues that affect the west's view of Russia, including the possibility/probability of conflicts/threats/intimidation to the eastern Baltic States



and the recent Russian Naval fleet presence in the Mediterranean.

With respect to the election of the next US President, Donald Trump has given some pointers as to his approach when he moves to the White House. He accepted a congratulatory phone call from the Taiwanese President with possible ramifications on relations with China and he has shown a willingness to engage Russia. His high profile national appointments – Secretary of State, National Security Advisor, CIA Director – are also indicators as to the approach he will take as President. There are concerns, not just about his attitude to Russia but his comments on NATO and his questioning of the capabilities of NATO nations. His level **of knowledge of the US's role in the world may not be as good** as it should be. There are also uncertainties about his stance on nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, nuclear deterrence doctrine, and the UN global prohibition on nuclear weapons, as well as his approach to North Korea.

Finally, on Syria, Mr Meekin discussed the situation in Syria, including the Syrian leadership and President Assad, the fight against ISIS and the involvement of Syria, Turkey and other neighbouring countries, Russian/Turkish relations, the situation in Aleppo (now in Government hands), the role of Al Qaeda, and the role of Russia.

## 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

Mr Alex Tewes

National President

National CEO

Committee Secretary

Nat. Policy Advisor

## ALAN TITHERIDGE

Chairman





# Defence Personnel & Families Committee

## 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 DPFC provides advice on matters tasked and self-referred, is 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 DPFC 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

## Submissions Made

The committee made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Operations of Defence Housing Authority

## Meetings

The Committee met in February, May, August and November, which each quarterly meeting structured around a single theme (but not excluding other matters as they arise or are referred). A highlight was a presentation by Air Vice Marshal Tracy Smart, Commander Joint Health, who spoke on ADF mental health and rehabilitation and the challenges ahead.

## Specific Issues Pursued during the Year

- Proposed sale of Defence Housing Australia
- Homeless veterans
- Vacation of DHA homes on death of Member
- Adaptive Sports Programs
- DFRT Reform & ADF Pay Setting Arrangements
- Submissions to Senate Mental Health Inquiry
- Transition and Resettlement
- Younger Veterans – Contemporary Needs
- Cost increases in ADF rations
- Unique nature of service - priority issues
- Covenant on ADF conditions of service
- ADF conditions of service (messing changes/rations)
- RSL Paper on Health Issues (National Board resolved not to proceed with the paper)
- ADF level of fitness
- Privacy issues relating to the Census
- Military Court of Australia
- Support for member unaccompanied
- Support for those Defence families in crisis
- Partner employment, superannuation, leave entitlements; national registration for professions

## Priority Issues for 2016:

- Sale of DHA
- DFRT/WRA
- Medical support to ADF
- Education

## Priority issues for 2017:

- DFRT
- Mental health
- Transition management
- Post deployment education and employment
- Defence pay

## Committee Members

Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC (Retd)	Chairman/RAAF Association
Mr Peter Eveille	Deputy Chairman
Mrs Sam Jackman	RSL CEO
Major General Hori Howard AO MC ESM (Retd)	RAR Association
Commodore Syd Lemon AM RANR	
Legatee Charles Wright	Legacy
Mrs Robyn Ritchie	DFA
LCDR Ernst Power RANR	Naval Association
Mrs Anne Pahl	RSL VIC
Mr Darren McMannus-Smith OAM	RSL NSW
Mr Les Bienkiewicz	DFWA
Mrs Meg Green	<b>War Widows' Guild of Aust.</b>
Mrs Jan Ormerod	Secretary
Mr Alex Tewes	RSL National Policy Advisor

PETER MCDERMOTT AM CSC  
Chairman





# The 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 Guditjmara 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 Guditjmara, 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 2016 Scholarship

Unfortunately, no nominations were received for the 2016 Reg Saunders Scholarship.



# RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Australian Forces Overseas Fund

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF). AFOF provides packages to Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australia Federal Police (AFP) personnel serving overseas on various military operations, peacekeeping and peacemaking deployments. The packages are provided twice yearly so that those deployed receive at least one pack whilst they are serving overseas in whatever capacity.

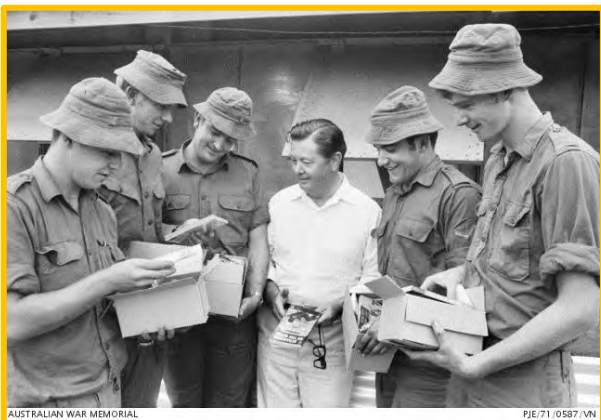


The packages contain various items to remind personnel of home, and include ANZAC Biscuits obtained from Modern Baking, and glucose confectionary, salted peanuts or cashews, health bars and lollies and other items which are available in our supermarkets. A letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians and a

letter introducing the RSL State Branches and their membership contact details are also included in the packages.

Many personnel are serving in areas of particular hardship and in conditions quite foreign to those experienced back home. These packages are a reminder of home and that Australia appreciates the contribution our service people are making for the nation.

The beginning of RSL AFOF can be traced to the decision to provide Christmas parcels to members of the Australian Army serving in Vietnam. Following our withdrawal from Vietnam, RSL AFOF has continued to support Australian Forces on missions abroad. RSL AFOF was formally established on 26 January 1966 at the Sydney Town Hall, amalgamating the earlier fund established by RSL NSW and the Lord Mayor's Comfort Fund.



(Photo from the Australian War Memorial collection)

The work of RSL AFOF has been made possible due to the donations received from ordinary Australians who share our desire to continue this support. Twice a year, we see volunteers from RSL NSW State Branch, RSL sub-

branches and Civilians from the Defence Department and the Department of Veterans' Affairs joining with serving members of the Deployed Forces Support Unit (39<sup>th</sup> Battalion) at Randwick Barracks in NSW to pack parcels for shipment overseas.

The preparation of the packages would not happen without the support of the Deployed Forces Support Unit (39<sup>th</sup> Battalion) who provide the facilities for this to occur twice a year. RSL AFOF gratefully acknowledges the following groups who give freely of their time to assist in packing the above items into the packages:

- 39 Personnel Support Battalion, Randwick
- Other Randwick local serving members of the ADF
- Staff from the Directorate of Personnel Support Amenities, Canberra
- **Department of Veterans' Affairs, Sydney Office**
- **Department of Veterans' Affairs Military Compensation Group**
- RSL National staff
- NSW RSL State Branch office
- NSW local RSL Sub-Branches

This year a total of 2500 mid-year packages and 2500 Christmas packages were sent to those serving overseas.



### Packing the delivery

RSL appreciates the support of 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion that provide the facilities to put together care packages to be sent overseas.

RSL AFOF gratefully acknowledges those listed below who provided significant donations to permit this great work to continue:

- Cricket Australia
- RSL State Branches
- RSL Sub-Branches
  - Belconnen RSL Sub-Branch
- Ex-Service Organisations
  - **War Widows' Guild WA Branch's Monday Craft Group**

The March delivery this year was made possible through the generous support of Cricket Australia who raised \$10,000 at the ANZAC Test in November 2015.

#### FAST FACTS

\$6,500

Amount raised by first AFOF fundraising event in 1966

\$10,000

Amount raised by Cricket Australia for AFOF at the ANZAC Test in 2015

While our Australian men and women represent our nation on cricket grounds across the world, we know that you are bravely serving Australia on much more treacherous grounds. Wherever in the world this package finds you, on behalf of Australian cricket, thank you for your service to our country.

James Sutherland, CEO Cricket Australia



Thank you to Cricket Australia for their support.

RSL AFOF is proud to make this contribution to the welfare of our serving personnel on behalf of a grateful Nation. The RSL wishes all those serving overseas good fortune and a safe return home.





## Meritorious Service Medal

ACT

MILLS, D A G

NSW

ALLEN, R A

MUNNERY OAM, C W

YOUNG OAM, K J

QLD

BRIDGES, K J  
DEAN, OAM, K R

McQUEEN, J L

MORRIS OAM DCM, A

**O'CONNOR, R J**

SA

BARTLEY, W M

TAS

LANGLEY, A J

RALPH, G

VIC

CARSON, M  
HESLOP, H

HIGGINS OAM, D

MARTIN, D

WEBSTER, Dr R

## Life Membership

ACT

EVEILLE, P

GIERSCH, J E

GILLARD, R

SUTTON, P G

NSW

ASKEY RFD ED, M W  
BATES, J A  
BEAUMONT, D R  
BRIEN, J R  
BRYANT, M R  
CLARK, B  
COATS, R M  
DART, D  
DAVIDSON, J  
DUCKWORTH, R J  
GOODE OAM, F C

HAMILTON, A D  
HORWOOD, G B  
HUNTER OAM, A P  
HYSON, M F  
JACKSON, G R  
JAMES, R R  
LAMBKIN, S D I  
LEE, M  
MACKIE, L S  
McALISTER, K H  
McCLELLAND, M W

McKENZIE, B G  
MENZIES, D W  
METCALFE, R J  
MUIR OAM, J  
NOBBS, B A  
NORTH, W  
SLOAN, D K  
SLOSS, R A  
STEWART, B J  
TAYLOR, G M  
THODE, S A

THOMAS, W J  
THOMPSON, I V  
TUCHIN, W K  
TYSON, J  
WATTS, B W  
WHITE, J C  
WILLIAMS, G N  
WINNEY, P J  
WISE, G C

QLD

BASSAN, R N  
BIRD, A V  
BROOKER OAM, C L  
CAUCHI-GERA OAM,  
JP(QUAL), J C  
CHURCHES, J A

CUNNEEN, E R  
FRENCH, P A  
GOLDMAN, P J  
GREEN, OAM, R H  
J RUSSELL, J J  
McQUEEN, J L

MEDLIN, B E  
MITCHELL, G K  
**O'KEEFE, J A**  
**O'MALLEY, R J**  
PARKER, G A  
REGNART, A L

SIMMONS, J R  
TAYLOR, L G  
WALLACE, M E  
YOUNG, R

SA

HOLMAN, G A  
LESLIE PETERS, L

MAY, R M  
STROTHER, D J

VAN DOORN, K J

WATTS, W

TAS

CHAPMAN, H G  
DICK, R  
LUTTRELL, K

**O'TOOLE, G**  
PIATEK, H  
RAMSAY, R N

TAYLOR, D  
WADDLE, D  
WALKER, K R

WALLACE, J

VIC

BEASLEY, R  
CAINES, I F  
CAIRNS, C  
CLARKE, O  
CLYNE, B  
CROSS, E

GWYNNE, W  
HANLON, J  
JAMES, R  
LEY, P D  
LIVINGSTON, M R  
MAHER, B

MATHIESON, R  
MAY, K  
MORGAN, I  
MORGAN, P  
PARK, N  
TAYLOR, G

WILLIAMS, G  
WILSON, J  
WISBEY, R

WA

BUSHE-JONES, T F  
FERGUSON, G E  
HANCOCK, J W

HARDWICKE, R  
REGLING, M D

SOUTHORN, J  
STARCEVICH, G E

STONE, E M  
WARK, C C

NATIONAL

DOOLAN AO, K A

ORMEROD, J M

Honorary Life Membership

VIC

BESHEARS, J

MORRISON, R

Honorary Membership

Nil

Honorary Membership for Life

Nil

Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

NSW

BYLEVELD, P  
DUNN, L  
HAYES, C E  
HEMSWORTH, I

HOGDEN, J  
MCDONOUGH, N  
NORCOTT JAROSZ, M I N  
PROWSE, G M

RANYARD, B M  
ROBERTSON, J  
SCULLY, M  
SUTHERLAND, S I

TUCKER, P

QLD

BOULTER, J L

SALTER, M H

SA

JAEDE, E

TAS

BRITTEN, E  
DUNCAN, J  
DURSTAN, P  
FRYER, M

GEORGE, L  
JONES, G  
MATHEWSON, B  
BINNS, D  
BUTLER, A

COLLINS, D  
MALLINSON, G  
MULLIS, H  
ROOKE, H  
RUSSELL, C

SMITH, B  
TOWNSEND, K  
TUCK, P  
WYLIE, C



VIC

BALL, H  
COOPER, N  
DOWLING, D

GILLARD, D  
KLEINERT, M

MCWILLIAM, D  
MOUNSEY, N

MURRAY, L  
WILLIAMS, A

Certificate of Merit & Gold Badge

NSW

CROSSINGHAM, B J  
DIXON, R

GATES, D D  
GLYNN, J M

JAMES, P  
LITTLE, G G

MITCHELL, M F  
YOUNG, J

VIC

CREEK, P  
DUNCAN, B

ROBERTS, L

SIMONS, D

YOUNG, V

50 Year Membership Certificate

ACT

AITCHISON OAM, R A  
ANDREW, R A  
CAMERON, D J

CRAWFORD, M A  
CREMEN, K  
DEWHURST, F

GARDNER, C E  
NICOLLS, M J  
POLLARD, I R

RICE, J K  
RICH, A L  
SHEPHERD, A R

NSW

ALLIBONE, I R  
ANDERSON, R G  
BACKHOUSE, H  
BENNETT, H  
BENNETT-BURLEIGH, J  
BOYTON, C W  
CASE, K  
CHAMBERLIN, P C  
CHILLINGWORTH, W L  
COOPER, K D  
CORLISS, M A  
CRESWICK, C R  
CROUGH, E L  
DADSWELL, T A  
DENOVAN, N  
EVANS, J E  
EWINGS, R J  
FAWCETT, J E  
GIBSON, L R  
GREGG, W J C  
HALEY, R J  
HANBURY, H R

HILL, A R  
HONEY, G D  
JENKIN, H W  
JONES, A D  
KEIGHERY, G  
KINSELA, K C  
LAND, J  
LAWSON, F D  
LENTFER OAM, K M  
LODGE, C G  
MARTIN, K G  
MAXWELL, G  
McDONALD, N C  
McMANUS, A  
MONTGOMERY, D  
MOORE, E V  
NATTRASS, S  
NEWLAND, R A  
NORRIS OAM, W  
ORTON, E  
PAGE, A J  
PARKINSON, I M

PENMAN, K  
PLANTE, D G  
POTTS, H C  
RANSE, J C  
RAVENSROFT, J  
RAY, K G  
ROBINSON, C J  
RUTHERFORD, H G  
SAVAGE, H L  
SHEAVES, A  
SHELTON, B E  
SHEPHARD, E B  
SIMPSON, L  
SIMPSON, R W  
SMITH, R C  
SPENCER, E R  
SPOTTISWOOD, A  
SWEENEY, M P  
TAYLOR, H  
TAYLOR, K  
TAYLOR, R D  
TAYLOR, W

TELFER, K L  
TIDSWELL, A C  
TONKINS, S S  
TRIBOLET, L H  
TUDOR, J  
VAUGHAN, W E  
VICKERS, C R  
VICKERS, P C  
VOORBIJ, J K  
WALKER, G F  
WARTH, E  
WATERS, J W  
WEST, L  
WILKINSON, R F  
WILLIAMS, A F  
WILLIAMS, M L  
WILSON, J D  
WILSON, N K  
WREN, W  
YOUNG, R G

QLD

BARNETT, N C  
BARNETT, W J  
BIRCH, N A  
BOYD, A L  
BULLOCK, R C  
CAMPBELL, D W  
COLE, B L  
CRAMP, J D

GARBETT, W E  
GILL, H T  
GREEN, R H  
HATHAWAY, R H  
HINTON, K E  
HOLLAND, A E  
JONES, W L  
KINNEALLY, C L

KNIGHT, E H  
LEES, OAM, R L  
LEWIS, H W  
MARTIN, R L  
MAYNE, B P  
MCCUBBIN, R F  
McLEOD FORD, J C  
MEREDITH, B R

MYERS, T R  
PHIPPARD, R K  
POWER, H V  
ROBERTS, P C  
ROBINSON, R T  
SCOTT, H G  
STANFORD, K W  
WALKER MBE, R

SA

GREGOR, R E

TAS

DALY, T J

LANGLEY, A J

MOLES DFM, D

VIC

ATKINSON, W  
BARNES, J  
BLOOM, L  
BOUKER, W  
BROWNBILL, J  
BRUHN, A  
BUNTING, D

CHESTER, P  
DAVIS, N  
DE JUSSING, C  
DEUTSCHER, P  
FERGUSON, R  
GARDINER, R  
GEORGE, F

JORDAN, E  
KELSALL, R  
LLOYD, W J  
MCKIRDY, D  
McQUALTER, N  
MEAGER, J  
MUNRO, E

OULD, A  
POOLE, F  
ROGERS, F  
SLOAN, S  
TIPPETT, N  
TIPPETT, R  
WILSON, L

WA

BUTLER, R J  
FARRELL, G

FRAWLEY, E  
GARRETT, H R

HOLTHAM, W  
MARTYN, W

MEACHAM, G A

75 Year Membership Certificate

NSW

KIRKHAM, T J

ROBINSON, C J

TAS

DALY, T J

Certificate of Appreciation

ACT

BAILEY, M  
BALDWIN, P

STACEY, R

WHEELER, R

The Tradies Group

QLD

KELLY, P

TAS

FRENCH, M

VIC

DAVIS, N  
DRAPER, G  
DUNCAN, G

FERGUSON, R  
FING, M  
FORBES, Prof D

HEANEY, T  
LIDGERWOOD, S  
OULD, A

SMITH, K

NATIONAL

LTCOL Ian Robinson

For sponsorship of AFOF parcels  
Good 360  
Impress Printers

Modern Baking  
Nestlé Australia Ltd

Stuart Alexander & Co  
Visy

Winners Sports Nutrition

## Sub-Branch Anniversary Certificates

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Nil

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

NSW

Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch

95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

NSW

Rockdale RSL Sub-Branch

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

NSW

Redfern RSL Sub-Branch

Yenda RSL Sub-Branch

TAS

Launceston RSL Sub-Branch

Wynyard RSL Sub-Branch





## 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 Maxwell Harding



RSL Sword recipient, Officer Cadet Maxwell Harding with the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN after the presentation of his 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 - Lance Corporal Stacey Furlong

December Graduation - Staff Cadet Robert Campbell

## ANZAC Awards

### ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize was awarded to Mr Peter Greste in recognition of his outstanding efforts to foster international understanding, highlight wider global injustices and his campaign for freedom of speech and freedom of the press. His selfless attitude and strong sense of social justice captures the essence of the ANZAC Peace Prize.



## ANZAC of the Year Awards

The 2016 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

- Mrs June Perry of South Australia in recognition of her selfless and compassionate service as a volunteer and her fundraising activities on behalf of the veteran and wider community of Mount Barker and the surrounding area.
- Mr Gregory Barnsley of New South Wales in recognition of his dedication and commitment to the RSL Day Club Program and to the veteran and wider community in NSW.
- Mr Phillip Thompson of Queensland in recognition of his outstanding, dedicated and compassionate commitment to helping younger veterans in need in Townsville and North Queensland, especially in the area of mental health.
- Mrs Daun Clapperton & Ms Robyn Peterson of Queensland in recognition of their dedicated commitment to the construction of the South **Burnett World War I veterans database 'Every Man Remembered – South Burnett Heroes'**.
- Mr Kenneth Lay APM of Victoria in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and guidance in the campaign to eliminate family violence in Victoria and throughout Australia.
- Mr Geoffrey McClements of Western Australia in recognition of his tireless work for the veteran and wider community of Claremont and for fostering the remembrance and commemoration of **Australia's military history**.
- Ms Claire Hunt of Western Australia in recognition of her inspiring and remarkable commitment to supporting members of the Defence Community and their families through the Defence Transition Mentor Program at the Comet Bay College, Secret Harbour, **and for her passionate resolve to honour Australia's military history within the broader community**.

## Scholarships

### RSL Scholarships

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

The 2016 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

- Mr James Fitzpatrick
- Mr Travis Styles

### 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 2016/2017 are Jason Apae and Shalom Kali.



# National Officers & Board Members

## National Officers

National President	Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) (until June) Mr Rod White AM RFD (from June) Mr Robert Dick (Acting from October)
Deputy National President	Mr Robert Dick
Chief Executive Officer	Mrs Samantha Jackman
National Treasurer	Mr David Sinclair

## State Presidents

Victorian Branch President	Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd)
Western Australian President	The Hon Graham Edwards AM (until June) Mr Peter Aspinall (from June)
New South Wales Branch President	Mr Rod White AM RFD Mr John Haines (Acting from June)
South Australian Branch President	Brigadier Tim Hanna AM
Queensland Branch President	Mr Stewart Cameron CSC
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

National Communications & Marketing Manager	Mrs Donna Alexander (until July)
National Communications Advisor	Ms Georgie Macris (from October)
National Policy Officer	Mr Alex Tewes
Office Manager	Mrs Michelle Blundell
National Corporate Relations Manager	Mr Stephen Henderson
EA to NP & CEO/National Secretariat Support Officer	Mrs Jan Ormerod
Accounts Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor
National <b>Veterans' Affairs Assistant</b>	Mrs Jackie Morris
Front Office Coordinator	Mr Nick Binskin





# RSL Membership Details

- as at 31 December 2016

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
ACT/Overseas	1,535	12	nil	nil
NSW	36,500	357	2,335	138
QLD	34,558	240	539	51
SANT	11,715	130	207	12
TAS	4,173	52	345	24
VIC	70,274	285	1,208	64
WA	9,979	133	nil	nil
<b>ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS</b>				
2016	168,734	1,157	5,485	273
2015	170,858	1,215	4,634	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

## 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

Yamba Club  
PHILLIP ACT 2606  
Postal: GPO Box 708  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6260 6344  
Fax: (02) 6295 1628

#### NSW

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

#### WA

66 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000  
Postal: PO Box 3023  
Adelaide Terrace  
PERTH WA 6832  
Phone: (08 9287 3799)

#### QLD

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

#### TAS

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

#### VIC

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

#### SA

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



# RSL Centenary Conference



## Welcoming Message

Welcome to the 100<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL).

You are part of another milestone in the history of the RSL.

The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia, from which today's RSL originates, was founded by those servicemen returning from World War I. Their aim was to ensure that, through appropriate commemorative ceremonies, the sacrifices of their fallen comrades were not forgotten; and that they cared for those wounded, injured or suffering as a consequence of war. They set out to look after their mates and their mates' families, and to forcefully advocate the need for their care.

One hundred years on, the RSL continues as the Nation's foremost and most respectful organisation caring for serving and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

By attending the 100<sup>th</sup> RSL National Conference in Melbourne today, you are becoming part of this rich history. This event will recognise the achievements of our founders and their successors, and celebrate and pay tribute to all the RSL has achieved over the past 100 years. The Conference will explore the theme "The Next 100 Years", and look at ways for the RSL to evolve and serve new generations of veterans and their families.

Enjoy the Conference and thank you for the very important role you are playing in the RSL's continuing story.

## The Next 100 Years

Back Cover: RSL Leaders

Top photo: Delegates to the first National Congress of the Returned Soldiers & Sailors Imperial League of Australia

Middle photo: Members of the RSL National Board

Bottom photo: The future of the League

Inside Back Cover:

Conference Key Note Speakers: Mr Les Carlyon, Mr Dan Cairnes, Mrs Sam Jackman, Brigadier Michael Annett, Mr Geoff Wohlsen, VADM Ray Griggs



# RSL – Past, Present, Future



*be part of the change!*

## RSL – The Next 100 Years