



# Returned & Services League of Australia National Annual Report 2017



*The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance*

# SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES COMMEMORATED DURING 2017

## WORLD WAR I

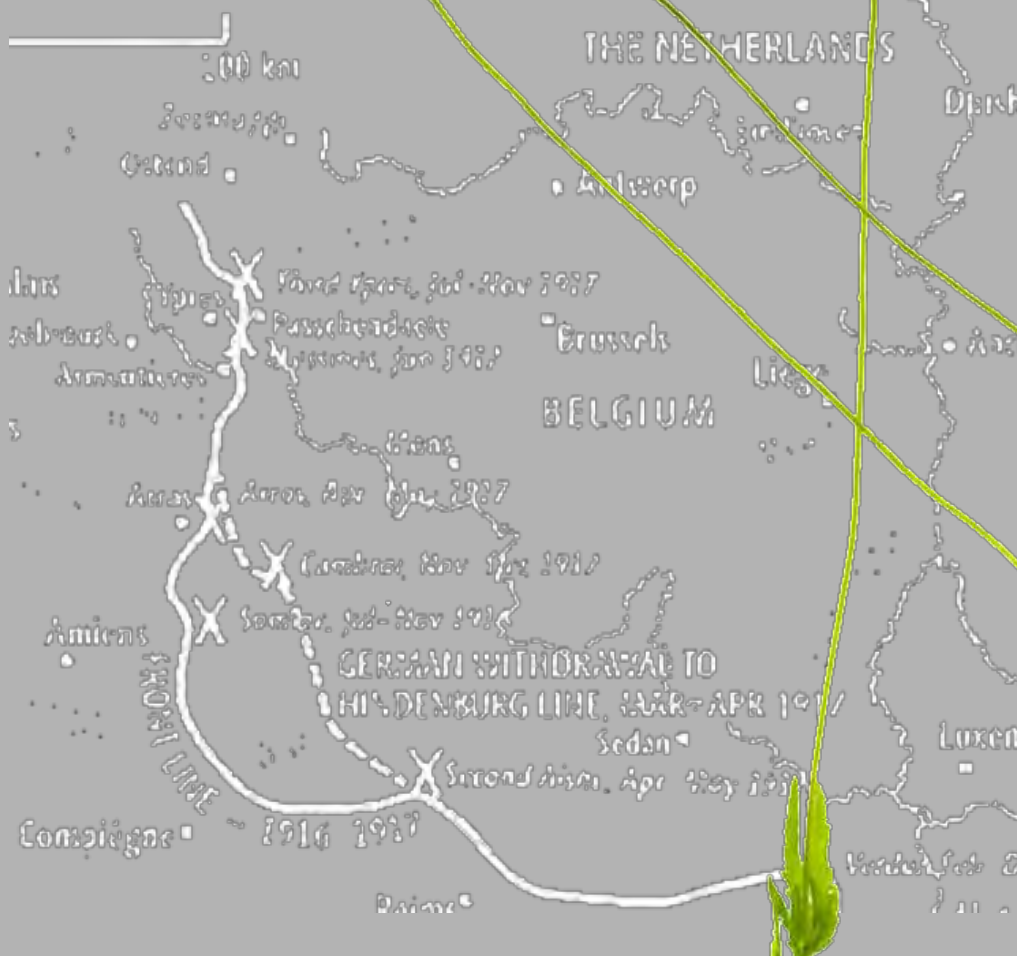
- 11 April Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt
- 26 September Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood
- 31 October Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba

## WORLD WAR II

- 15 February 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore
- 19 February 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin
- 4 May 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea
- 4 June 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bomber Command Operations
- 25 August 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay
- 31 Oct - 11 Nov 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Battle of El Alamein

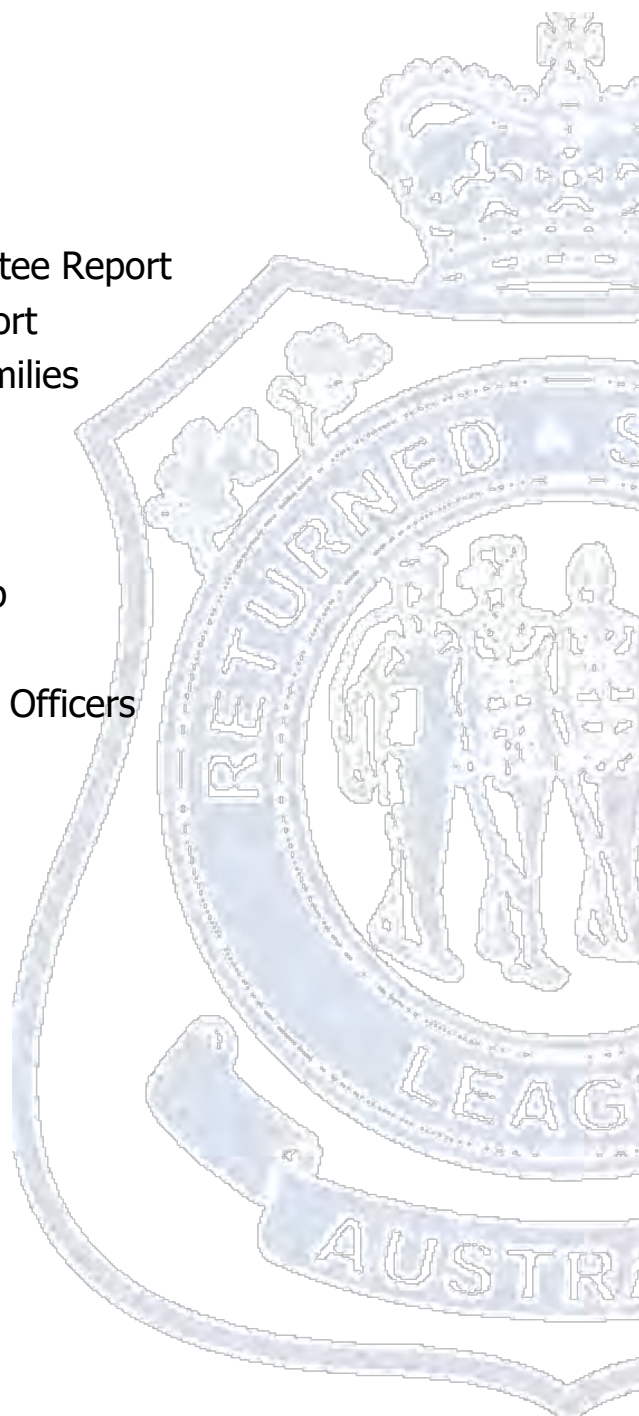
## OTHER

- 14 September 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Australian Peacekeepers  
Peacemakers





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## National President's Report



Despite the continuing challenges it faced during 2017, the RSL strove to continue to provide support to current ADF members and the veteran community. The League is also determined to accept the challenge to change and adapt to the needs of the modern cohort as it is these younger hands who hold the future and will carry our organisation through the next hundred years.

We all know that change is never easy or comfortable, it is simple to outline but often hard to implement. However, if we come together with a collaborative approach the change can be graceful, and will go a long way to ensure the longevity of this great organisation.

At a National Level and across all states, the leadership, in association with input from members, [including ADF both serving and recently separated members] have been in dialogue to identify the wants and needs of this younger cohort. From this dialogue we are developing and proposing a variety of initiatives to ensure our relevance in being there to provide the necessary support now and in the future. Transition, claims processing, advocacy, suicide prevention, mental health, jobs for veterans, support for families and changes in legislation are pending issues generic to all states.

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.

In 2018, our business model will need to be practical and sustainable; we need to get back to basics and realign ourselves with the charter of the RSL so we can continue to provide the best support and advocacy for the veteran 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 by our members and over 100 years of experience in providing real support for veterans and their families. We are known regionally, nationally and internationally as an organisation of pride, strength and valour.

I am 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.

**ROBERT DICK**  
National President



# National Conference

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual National Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia was held in Canberra, ACT on 21 September.

A wreath laying ceremony, held at the Australian War Memorial in the afternoon of 20 September, was very well attended.

Preceding the Conference, a seminar, hosted by the Japanese Embassy, was held to discuss the outcomes of the Japan-Australia POW Grassroots Exchange Program. This was followed by a Pre-Conference Cocktail function.

The Conference was opened by the Governor-General His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC in a video address, and the delegates were addressed by the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC.

The ANZAC Peace Prize was accepted by Mr Adrian Campbell on behalf of the Rotary Club of Camberwell in recognition of their inspirational secondary schools project the "Seeds of Peace" Program.

The National President, Mr Robert Dick delivered the opening and closing remarks.

Other speakers included Sharon Bown, former RAAF Nursing Officer and Brigadier Andrew Freemantle, Trustee of the Royal Commonwealth Services League (RCEL). Andrew is also one of the RSL's representatives on the RCEL Board.

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

- Mr Barry Clark – National President  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association
- RADM Jack Steer (Retd) – CEO  
Royal New Zealand Returned & Services Association

## Functions

Conference delegates attended a Reception on 20 September, and the National Conference Dinner was held at Realm Hotel on 21 September.

## Thank You

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

## Annual General Meeting

The League's Annual General Meeting was not convened as part of this conference, but was held in Canberra in November.

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

### National President:

Mr Robert Dick

### Deputy National President:

Mr Stewart Cameron CSC

## 2018 National Conference

The 2018 National Conference will be held in Canberra.



## Meetings and Membership

The National Trustees met on 4 occasions during the year and considered some matters out of session. Once again they were most ably supported by Mrs Jan Ormerod as Secretary and received financial reports for each meeting from the National Treasurer. During the year Mr John King replaced Mr Peter Eveille as the National Board representative on the Committee. The Trustees were most appreciative of their input. Each of these people attended Committee meetings.

The National Trustees during 2017 were:

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

## Financial Situation

I have reported over several years now of the declining state of the financial holdings of National Trusts and Funds administered by the National Trustees – they have dropped below being able to maintain parity in value with the general economic community status. This is due in no small regard to the lack of contributions received by the Trusts or Funds towards their capital holdings and the very low interest rates which affect the earnings of all Trusts and Funds. It is of concern and perhaps surprising if not pitiful that throughout the RSL as a whole and within the leadership there has been little effort to rectify the situation especially through donations. The situation, if not rectified, will place in question the substantial benefits that accrue to those less fortunate and to the standing of the RSL within the wider community.

## Consolidation of Trusts and Replacement of National Trustees

In the 2016 Annual Report I mentioned the National Board's decision on Consolidation of the National Trusts and Funds and the Board's resolution to replace the National Trustees with members of the Board. This year I can report that the National Trustees continue to await the National Board's decision to implement their resolutions or to rescind them. On invitation from the then National President the National Trustees provided comment to the National Board on the appropriateness of their resolutions.

The National Board also resolved to charge an annual Administrative Fee of 2% of the capital holdings of each Trust and Fund. The National Trustees while acknowledging the right of the National Office to seek an administrative fee for the services rendered in maintaining the Trusts and Funds have, in due diligence as trustees, sought justification of the amount to be

charged based on the actual work carried out on the Trusts and Funds by the National Office. To date no justification has been forthcoming and the National Trustees have resolved to make no further Administrative Fee payments until such justification is furnished to them. This might result in a greater or lesser fee. At present with interest earnings at about 3% the Administration Fee if applied at 2% of capital holdings will absorb approximately two thirds of the annual earnings of each Trust and Fund except for the Jubilee Fund which also receives an annual capitation fee.

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

This Fund, using earnings accrued during the year but supported through drawing on its capital holdings and from the RSL Foundation has continued to support the provision of 2 scholarships to deserving tertiary students in Crete and to the Bishop of Spili's Fund. The grants from this Fund which have been occurring for many years bring considerable kudos to the RSL and within international relations between the Hellenic people and Australians. Again it recognises the fighting ability and sacrifice of members of the Australian 6<sup>th</sup> Division especially in the Greece/Crete campaign during World War II and the sacrifice and support given especially by Cretan civilians to many allied servicemen endeavouring to escape Crete after the German occupation in 1941. The recipients of this year's scholarships were Mrs Psychogiou Konstantina from Herakleion and Mr Lagoudakis Nikolaos from Rethymnon.

## Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

This enduring Fund commemorating a signature event in the history of the RSL, is supported annually by interest earnings and 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 the RSL membership itself as was its principal purpose when established in 1966. Apart from the assistance to others provided through grants from this Fund it brings significant regard for the RSL from a number of external areas. Grants made during 2017 supported the following activities:

## RSL Scholarships

The Fund, as in previous years, supported 2 new scholarships in 2017 valued at \$4000 each per annum for a period of 3 years study depending on the length of the recipient's course and the recipient remaining in good academic standing and in necessitous circumstances. Total grant to cover all RSL scholarships in operation was \$24,000. Recipients have to show a connection to a veteran either usually as being a child or grandchild of the veteran. It is pleasing to receive reports from ongoing scholarship holders and to learn of their gratitude for the scholarship, their hopes and academic performance. The scholarships are administered through Australian Veterans Children's

Trust (AVCAT) to which an administrative fee is paid. AVCAT also reports on students' progress and each year recommends for National Trustee's agreement, the suggested scholarship awardees. The National Trustees extend their gratitude for very effective AVCAT support.

### Reg Saunders Scholarships

The scholarships are intended for indigenous students who in the main intend to return to their communities to use their knowledge and skills in assisting their fellow community members. Over the last few years these scholarships have been awarded through arrangements with the Batchelor Institute in the Northern Territory. Unfortunately during 2017 arrangements with the Batchelor Institute broke down and despite repeated attempts by the RSL to have the situation rectified within the administrative arrangements at the Institute, no scholarships were awarded during 2017. It is proposed that for 2018 to cease arrangements with the Batchelor Institute and instead seek the assistance of AVCAT in the awarding of these scholarships.

### RSL New Guinea Campaign Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded through the Port Moresby Grammar School to assist two financially challenged student to complete years 11 and 12 of their secondary studies. During 2017 the administrators within the Port Moresby Grammar School failed to provide the RSL with required information to justify the National Trustees making a grant for the scholarships. This was despite several attempts during the year by the RSL to seek clarification and information as to the awarding of the scholarships for 2017. As a result no scholarships were awarded and the RSL has advised Port Moresby Grammar School that the arrangement has ceased. The National Trustees are grateful for the assistance provided in this saga by the Port Moresby RSL Sub Branch and look to discussions with that Sub Branch as to how assistance to PNG students, secondary or tertiary, may be offered in future years.

### Medical Student Exchanges

The RSL again provided an annual grant of \$10,000 to the University of Sydney Northern Medical School to assist two students from the School to take an exchange to either Fiji or PNG. A similar arrangement involving \$5,000 occurs with the Hoc Mai Foundation to assist one medical student to exchange to Vietnam. In both cases the RSL support is highly valued and reports from assisted students show the beneficial value of the exchanges.

### Kapyeong Scholarships

Funds from the two sub accounts opened several years ago from donations to the Fund from the Australian Korea Society and the Korean War Memorial Trust which have contributed to the Kapyeong Scholarships have been exhausted. As a result the National Trustees resolved to continue the Scholarships through grants from the Jubilee Fund itself. This decision was based essentially on the benefits the scholarships bring to the Korean school children recipients, the recognition of the Australian Veterans of the Korean War and the goodwill and understanding the award of these scholarships has fostered between Korea and Australia including the high

regard it brings to the RSL and the Australian contribution to the War.

### Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund

Named in memory of two Australian nurses who were murdered by the Japanese during World War II, this Fund supports a scholarship each year awarded to a deserving high standing student nurse at the end of year 1 of their studies. No scholarship was awarded in 2017.

### Mountbatten Memorial Fund

\$5000 was granted to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-service league (RCEL) from this Fund to aid RCEL support to disadvantaged ex-servicemen, who had been part of the British Forces, and their dependants within the poorer nations of the Commonwealth. This grant required use of some of the capital of the Fund since available cash from the Fund earnings were inadequate to make a meaningful contribution.

### RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Trust

No demands were made nor grants provided from this Trust during 2017.

### RSL Foundation

Approximately \$500 in donations were received by the RSL Foundation during 2017. The Foundation continues to support a variety of grants including by support to top up grants from other Funds.

**JOHN SHELDRICK**  
Chairman



# National Veterans' Affairs Committee Report

## Purpose of NVAC

The **National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC)** advises the National President and Board on matters relating to the welfare of veterans and their families (the veteran community), primarily after the veterans have separated from the ADF. Historically, NVAC focussed on DVA policies and those of other relevant Government agencies and authorities. It also recommends options for the League to advocate to government and other stakeholders on behalf of veterans and their families.

With the changing needs of the veteran community, NVAC has recently become more involved in ensuring the availability and delivery of essential services from within the League.

## Objectives of NVAC

During 2017, NVAC reviewed its terms of reference (TORs) and its method of operation. This aimed at ensuring the League as a whole could enhance the delivery of essential services effectively and efficiently.

Building on its historical objectives, NVAC applied the following two objectives:

- Advise the National President, the Board and the CEO on matters relating to the entitlements and the delivery of services to the veteran community; and
- Provide strategic oversight and coordination to support Branches in the delivery of those services and monitor the availability of capabilities across the League.

## Terms of Reference (TOR)

- **To meet the revised objectives and optimise NVAC's potential**, NVAC reviewed its TOR and prepared a revised draft for ratification by the Board.
- **The revised TOR renewed NVAC's focus on legislative and policy-related issues affecting veterans' entitlements** while ensuring the League provided or enabled access to the services as equitably and consistently as possible across all Branches.
- In meeting these TOR, NVAC contributed to the **League's leadership within the ESO community.**

## Composition of NVAC

### Branch Representatives

The TOR provided for one or two representatives from each Branch, with these being a mix of paid staff and volunteers who offered a range of skills, knowledge and **experience that contributed to attaining the committee's outcomes.**

## Representation of Branch Views

Committee members were expected to offer a whole-of-branch perspective and ensure information was passed effectively back to their sub-branches. This aimed at optimising the availability of, and the structure and resources available for service delivery between and within branches.

## Advisors

While NVAC continued to engage advisors on a regular or ad hoc basis, there is potential to improve the benefits that should be available from these sources.

## National President and CEO

As Ex-Officio members of NVAC, the National President and CEO made welcome contributions to some meetings.

## Deputy Chair

As a member of the National Board, the Deputy Chair played a valuable role in supporting the Chair and as a conduit between the Board and the committee.

## Meetings

NVAC met four times in 2017, the first meeting being chaired by John Hodges and the last three by James Gilchrist who was appointed in March. The Chair briefed **the President and CEO as required and confirmed NVAC's progress** in regard to its priorities and on factors that affected its performance.

NVAC met once in Melbourne and three times in Canberra, with each meeting providing some benefits. **However, NVAC's potential was limited by the irregular and inconsistent attendance of its members.** While external factors in some branches contributed to this situation, it limited the potential benefits that NVAC offers to the League and the broader veteran community.

## Achievements and Reports during 2017

In addition to revising its TOR, NVAC contributed to the following issues:

- **Suicide. The Senate Enquiry into Veterans' Suicide.**
- **Ionising Radiation and Traumatic Brain Injury.** Studies on Ionising Radiation and Traumatic Brain Injury.
- **External Committees.** Several external committees, including those conducted by DVA and the RMA. This is a privilege and responsibility bestowed on the League and is one that warrants attention to ensure proper representation.
- **Annual Budget Submission.** Although NVAC did not prepare a submission for the 2018 Federal Budget, it noted issues to be considered after the Budget and that could be submitted after more detailed analysis and planning.



## Relationship to the Defence Personnel and Families Committee (DPFC)

**While NVAC's focus is and should remain on the services** required by and available to the veteran community once the members have separated from the ADF, the DPFC offers tangible benefits to those who are serving. Both committees contribute to the ADF transition process on discharge, especially for those who leave on medical grounds.

The Chairs of these committees attended **each other's** meetings and engaged in relevant discussions. This was an important initiative and is one that should be encouraged into the future.

## Relationship with Other ESOs

To meet its leadership role within the Ex-Service Community, some members of NVAC recognised the potential for NVAC to invite members of other ESOs to attend some of its meetings or parts thereof. This would **follow the DPFC's example to broaden general** discussions and would consolidate the status of the

League as the major ESO and advisor to Governments and other stakeholders.

## Future of NVAC

After extensive discussion, committee members endorsed the continuing need for NVAC or a similar committee. However, members agreed it must be better directed by the National Board and be better resourced if it is to reach its potential.

## Summary of Achievements and Recommendations from NVAC in 2017

The Chair provided a written report to the National President and Board in November. The report **summarised NVAC's achievements and identified** some of its limitations, and made some recommendations regarding its future needs and potential benefits.

J.A.F. (Jim) GILCHRIST  
Chairman



## Introduction

Due to a range of factors, 2017 was a very quiet year for the Defence Committee with only two meetings held. This report covers those two meetings.

## February meeting

The committee reviewed a concern raised by the NSW branch on potential security implications of the sale and lease of assets. While the committee believed that that issues raised by NSW do not have a direct association with Free Trade agreements, it agreed with the NSW Branch's concerns about the sale of Australian assets and the leasing of sea ports/harbours, and **endorsed** their request for the National President to articulate these concerns during any discussions with government.

The committee also discussed the Trump presidency and the potential implications for Australia's Defence, including:

- The unpredictability of Trump's approach to defence and the region; and
- Activities in the South China Sea, and the inadvisability of Australian involvement in any provocative American action.

The Committee **resolved** to keep a watching brief and revisit the issue later in the year to ascertain if there has been any tangible effect on defence policy. Due to cancelled meetings, the committee has not had an opportunity to discuss this issue further.

The committee took the opportunity in its first meeting for 2107 to discuss guest speakers for the year. Suggestions included:

- Service Chiefs
- Head of Force design AVM Mel Hupfeld
- Head Future Submarines RADM Greg Sammut or General Manager Submarines RADM Stephen Johnson

The committee also discussed the option of inviting a Public servant from Treasury associated with Defence to brief on the Treasury's viewpoint on defence spending over the next 10-15 years.

## June Meeting

Guest Speaker for this meeting was the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies AO CSC. The Chairman welcomed AM Davies and invited him to brief the committee. Rather than give a formal briefing, CAF opened a discussion with committee members on a range of topical issues.

Topics covered during the discussion included:

- There seems to be a relationship gap between the RAAF and the RSL - what needs to be done, either individually or as a partnership over the next 10 years to close that gap?

- Assumptions about the RSL's role confuses many ADF members and they do not fully appreciate what the RSL is, what opportunities the RSL offers, and they often query the value of joining.
- General membership base of the RSL is not in the younger cohort, and to capture and keep younger members, the RSL needs to ascertain what younger people need from the organisation and what would encourage them to join.
- The younger cohort are not attracted to joining or entering into a long term relationship with a formed body, with many not joining any organisation until after they leave the ADF or much later in life. This is an issue for the future management of the RSL and other similar organisations.
- Tasks the RSL may wish to consider:
  - Discover what the younger cohort wants out of membership and develop a strategy for building the membership base;
  - Rebranding RSL towards the younger cohort and introduce programs to benefit them;
- ADF expects to continue deployments and combat operations and that has implications for service members and their families:
  - A number of personnel going on their 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> deployment, with many not comfortable participating after 3 or 4 rotations;
  - The need for resilience in the deployed workforce;
  - Is there a role for the RSL in acting as a conduit between the Services, Service families and DVA?
  - Can we source the expertise to help to manage any issues that may arise?
  - In short, what role does the RSL have in helping Defence to manage those personnel?
- Reserve Workforce Issues:
  - The categories framework should allow seamless movement between the different types of service and employer engagement is necessary to allow such flexibility;
  - The need to be cognisant of the fact that demographic constraints change with rank levels;
  - The Suakin framework needs to be streamlined to manage the changes in service category requirements;
  - How can job sharing play a role?
  - The Reserve workforce needs a more flexible management approach to allow members to jump in and out of the Reserve.

Following the Chief of Air Force's presentation, the Chair provided an overview of the D & I conference and some of the issues it covered, including:

- First Principles Review
- Risk
- Partnering and collaboration – Australian industry
- Networking
- Smart buyer

The committee revisited a discussion on the Naval Ship Building Plan, including:

- The naval shipbuilding college
- The availability of workforce of 5-6,000 (can the workforce be sourced within Australia?)
- Infrastructure
- Scale of work
- Tempo of construction and possible implications of increasing
  - Strategic tempo
  - Resourcing and schedule

The committee **resolved** to keep a watching brief on threats to the plan before any making additional comments relating to increasing the tempo of the plan.

The committee had a general discussion on China and its influence in the region. It was **resolved** to keep a watching brief and include the item for discussion at a future meeting.

The list of future Guest Speakers was expanded to include:

- Steve Meekin - China and North Korea
- MAJGEN Adam Finlay - Commander Special Forces, VCDF or AVM McDonald,
- Peter Jennings – ASPI
- MAJGEN Cath Toohey Head Army Capability
- BRIG Chris Mills

## Committee Membership

### Chairman

AVM Alan Titheridge AO (Retd)

### Deputy Chair/Board Representative

Mr Peter Eveille

### Members

MAJGEN Adrian Clunies-Ross AO MBE (Retd)

MAJGEN Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

BRIG Stephen Dunn AM (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

Mr Robert Dick

Ms Georgie Macris

Mrs Jan Ormerod

National President

National CEO

Committee Secretary

### 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 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. We maintain a strong interest in a range of issues affecting current 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 self-tasks as appropriate within its areas of responsibility. During the reporting period, no tasks were provided from the Board or President. Tasks undertaken were at the initiative of the committee.

## Issues Under Watch

Matters of import that the DPFC monitor include:

- Lobbying Government to ensure 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.
- Monitoring 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.
- Advocating that ADF remuneration reflect the unique nature of defence service.
- Seeking compensation and rehabilitation for those damaged in the course of ADF service be provided wherever and whenever caused.
- Monitoring that 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.
- Advocating that ADF members be entitled to the same rights and protections under the Constitution as other Australians.

- Working to reform the DFRT and pay-setting for the ADF

## Meetings Held

Only one meeting and one workshop was held before the Board suspended the operations of national HQ committees (late in 2017). One meeting was held on 9 June with guest speakers Mr Craig Orme, Deputy President Repatriation Commission and Dr Ian Gardner, Principal Medical Advisor DVA who provided an update to the committee on new initiatives underway in the Department of Veterans' Affairs. A workshop was held in October to discuss the future direction of the committee, but no action was taken as the committee was suspended soon after.

## Specific Actions Pursued during the year

In the absence of anyone to act as the DFRT Intervenor, the Chairman acted at short notice to appear before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal in the Defence Workplace Remuneration Arrangement. Working closely with our colleagues in the Defence Force Welfare Association we made a submission to the DFRT which later resulted in a successful outcome for the ADF.

However, a committee of volunteers can only do so much, and the DPFC needs to be supported with national HQ staff who can help it to: monitor issues; provide direct policy support, conduct research and follow through on recommendations proposed. Unfortunately, the limited staff support we enjoyed was withdrawn early in the year and not replaced. To work effectively, resources need to be provided to allow the RSL HQ to carry through the actions we develop and recommend.

## Specific Issues Monitored during the year

Although there was little formal action during the year, the Chairman and Members monitored the following issues:

- Proposed sale of Defence Housing Australia
- DFRT Reform & ADF Pay Setting Arrangements
- Submissions to Senate Inquiries

## Future for the Committee

The committee at its final (workshop) meeting for 2017 concluded that there was a strong and continuing need for the RSL Leadership to be apprised of the issues facing the ADF members and their families. Within the Ex-Service community there is much, and highly warranted, attention on those who have left the service of their country. There are many less ex-service organisations (ESO) with the specific remit of drawing the attention of the Government and others to the needs of the ADF and families. The RSL is one ESO that pays attention to the current members of the ADF, not just

because these are our future members and our future, but because it is important to recognise and support the unique nature of ADF service.

The RSL as an organization plays a very important part in supporting current veterans. The DPFC, with its links back to the currently serving members of the ADF and their families should be in a position to advise the RSL leadership of the issues facing the ADF and to propose and (perhaps oversight) new initiatives. It cannot do this without adequate resourcing. As the Board considers

the future of its three advisory committees, it is important to remember that, no matter what structure is put in place to reinstate or replace the DPFC and the other two committees, the need to support, and be seen to support the ADF at the national HQ level remains an important priority.

**PETER McDERMOTT AM CSC**

Chairman

## Committee Members

Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC (Retd)

Mr Peter Eveille

Major General Hori Howard AO MC ESM (Retd)

Commodore Syd Lemon AM RANR

Legatee Charles Wright

Mrs Robyn Ritchie

Lieutenant Commander Ernst Power RANR

Mr Les Bienkiewicz

Mrs Meg Green

Mrs Jan Ormerod

Ex-Officio

Ms Georgie Macris

Mr Jim Gilchrist

Chairman/RAAF Association

Deputy Chairman/Board Representative

RAR Association

Legacy representative

Defence Families Australia

Naval Association

DFWA

War Widows' Guild of Aust.

Secretary

RSL National CEO

Chairman NVAC



## RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF)

The Australian Forces Overseas Fund (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.

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 approximate 2,500 packages, for each of the mid-year and Christmas periods, were sent to those serving overseas.



Packing the delivery

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

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

BROWN, D

### QLD

PARNELL, J C A

WADE, B

### VIC

ALSOP, A  
McKENNA, W

ORMSBY, N  
SCHNEIDER, M

SIMONS, K  
WYKE, J

### WA

BAVICH, J

MOURITZEN, R

## Life Membership

### ACT

GOSMAN, B A

MICHAELIS, H

SKIMIN OAM, A W

### NSW

AITKEN, C G  
BENNETT, R E  
CHAFFER, N F  
CHRISTMAS, S F  
CLIFFORD, K T  
COLLINS, J D  
CROUCH, A B

DUCKWORTH, D A  
EDMOND, D W  
EVANS, W  
HASSANOFF, N  
HOVING, G C  
KEATING, M R  
KENNEDY, D E

LUCK, G D  
MCCALLUM, G K  
McFARLANE AFC, G J  
MOFFATT, A D  
PATCH, M G  
PRITZLER, C  
ROBERTSON, J C

RUMBLE, D P  
STOCKLEY OAM, R  
TRUIN, K J  
UPSALL, J W  
VERITY, W T

### QLD

ARNOLD, J M  
BLEAKLEY, G E  
BROOKES, J E  
CAMERON, E  
CAMERON, R N

CLARK, R J  
GAMBRILL, L  
GIRVAN, R  
GUTTERIDGE, G A  
HARCOURT, L C

HARTMAN OAM, R  
LESLIE, P G  
LIDDELL, D G  
MAPP, P J  
REID, J T

WALLIS, P E  
WHELAN, A J  
WHITE, I T

### SA

COOK, G E  
DOWDY, W T G

HART, I R  
HOPGOOD, J R

LEWIS, R S  
LITTLE JP, R P

MADIGAN, H  
MILLER, R (C)

### TAS

BRIGGS OAM, J  
DEACON, G  
DUSTAN, A

HACK, G  
HARPER OAM, B  
LEWIS, D

MacDONALD, G  
WESTERHOF, H  
WYLIE, J

### WA

CLARKE, J  
EDWARDS AM, GJ

LENNON, B T  
O'DONNELL, M R

O'DWYER, K B  
OLD, G J

PICKERING, D  
SCHOFIELD, C

## VIC

BAKER, L  
BANJANIN, M  
BERGIN, B  
BERRIE, E  
BRANAGAN OAM, P  
BROWN, W  
BRUCE NEAL, B  
EGAN, K  
GESCHKE, C  
HARRISON, M

HIBBERT, H  
HILLIER, K  
JAMISON, D  
JONES, E  
KESBY, B  
MAXWELL, E  
MAXWELL, M  
McINTOSH, M  
MEEKE, R  
MENDE, R

MOLLOY, G  
MURCHIE, R  
MURPHY, P  
MURRAY, M  
NEAL, B  
NEUCHEW, R  
OSLER, R  
PAHL, A  
PITTS, K  
BELLINGER, R

ROWLES, M  
STRAHAN, J  
TWIDLE, D  
WATSON, R  
WOODS, H  
WRIGHT, K  
YOUNG, T

## Honorary Life Membership

### VIC

MOTTRIE, Mr. Benoit

## Honorary Membership for Life

Nil

## Women's Auxiliary Life Membership

### NSW

ATKINS, E M  
DOWN, C M  
EDWARDS, L  
GEELAN, S  
JACKSON, R L

JAY, P  
KING OAM, H J  
LEECH, J  
LUCKIE, E M  
MELLON, J

MOXON, T  
ROBINSON, M  
SMITH-EAGLES, J  
STUBBINGS, L  
TURNER, L

WHITTAKER, H  
WILLIAMS, J

### QLD

CAVANAGH, V G  
GRAHAM, N

LOUGHTON, S  
McELWAINE, P

PAVEY, W  
SHEW, A

WEBB, B J

### VIC

DENT, Y  
DOUGLAS, J  
DUGGAN, E

DUNCAN, B  
FILBAY, M  
GOODHEW, G

HETHERTON, P  
HIGGINS, J  
McINTOSH, M

PODBURY, T  
SLATER, J

## Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge

### VIC

BASSETT, J  
DAVIS, P

GOLDIE, L  
JORGENSEN, M

KAVANAGH, S  
LINCOLN, C

## 50 Year Membership Certificate

### ACT

ANLEZARK, J  
BURRELL, J

COTTERILL, E  
GARDNER, C E

POLLARD, I J



## NSW

BABBAGE D W  
BARTLETT, J  
BASHFORD, D  
BATES, J N  
BEGGS, S  
BEGGS, S  
BOUGHTON, P  
BRYDEN, W  
CANFIELD, K J  
COLLINS, A  
CRAIG, A  
CRANE, G D  
DALY, G  
DAVEY, H

DAVISON, V J  
DELANEY S  
FRANCIS, N  
FRYER, F  
GARRETT, R  
HALL, K W  
HALL, K W  
HANLON, R  
HARDY, G W  
HARRIS, C R  
HERBERT, C  
HOLLOWAY, R  
HOLLOWAY, R  
JONES, W E

KEALY AM MID, C  
LYLE, R F  
MARSHALL, A  
MAY, J  
MURPHY, J V  
MURRAY, R  
MURRAY, R  
PEACHEY, I D  
PETERSEN, N S  
PICKFORD, R  
PISANI, C  
POPE, B  
ROACH MBE, R E  
ROLFE, J

SHEARIM, R V  
SICARD, L  
SMITH, K B  
SOLWAY, J J  
SWALLOW, D W  
TAIT, A J  
TAYLOR, E  
THOMAS, R  
VAN DAM, J L  
WARDEN, K  
WHITE, A  
WRIGHT, W  
YOUNG, G R

## QLD

GILVEAR, A W

## SA

NIGHTINGALE, E L

## TAS

SHEPHEARD, R

SMITH, R

## VIC

AKERS, A  
BIRCH, R  
CHIPPERFIELD, B  
COSSAR, B  
CUMMINGS, L

HIBBERSON, L  
IRVING, H  
MaCARTY, D  
McEWEN, B  
MEDLYN, W

MILNE, B  
MURPHY, T  
NEAL, B  
NEUCHEW, R  
NIEUWENHOUT, A

REED, C  
McKELLAR, R  
ROWE, R  
SANDERSON, F

## WA

WILLIAMS, B

## 75 Year Membership Certificate

## NSW

CAMPBELL, D A

## Certificate of Appreciation

## ACT

HYLAND, W J

KING, S

## VIC

GREEN, A

## Sub-Branch Anniversary Certificate

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

TAS

Ross Sub-Branch

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

NSW

Rooty Hill Sub-Branch

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

NSW

City of Parramatta

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

NSW

Paddington-Woollahra RSL Sub-Branch

SA

Darwin Sub-Branch

TAS

Burnie Sub-Branch

Queenstown Sub-Branch

Greater Hobart RSL Sub-Branch

VIC

Rutherglen 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 – Midshipman Matthew Newman



### Royal Military College of Australia

The National RSL Prize is presented to the Second Class Cadet of the Royal Military College of Australia who has attained the best results in all assessed subjects.

June Graduation - Staff Cadet Duncan Yates

December Graduation - Corporal Alexander Kinal

## ANZAC Awards

### ANZAC Peace Prize

The ANZAC Peace Prize is awarded by the RSL to recognise any outstanding effort by an Australian citizen who has promoted the concept of international understanding and who, in so doing, has made a contribution to world peace.

The 2017 ANZAC Peace Prize was awarded to the Rotary Club of Camberwell in recognition of their

inspirational secondary schools project the "Seeds of Peace" Program. The Program, together with the Seeds of Peace Book, is a motivational initiative designed to promote peace, engagement and awareness of the Centenary of ANZAC while it educates young Australians to become influential advocates for peace in their peer group and beyond.

### ANZAC of the Year Awards

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

The 2017 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

- The Glenelg Brass Band of South Australia in recognition of their dedication and support of ANZAC commemorations in the wider Adelaide community for over 90 years.
- Mr Graeme Kernick of New South Wales in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the veteran and wider community of Forster-Tuncurry.
- Mr Erick Giblett of Western Australia in recognition of his tireless and selfless work as an advocate for the veteran community of Western Australia through the RSL, VVAA and SAS Association.
- Mr Nigel Allsopp of Queensland in recognition of his inspiring and dedicated commitment to the establishment of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation and its initiatives.
- Mr Allan Scott of Queensland in recognition of many years of dedicated service to the veteran and wider community of Innisfail.
- Mr Steve Kyritsis OAM of Victoria in recognition of his commitment to supporting veterans and the veteran community of Melbourne through the Hellenic RSL Sub-Branch, the Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation, the Shrine of Remembrance and the Bayside Vietnam Veterans Memorial project.

## 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 2017 RSL Scholarships have been awarded to:

Ms Brittany Willmott  
Ms Jessica Baker



# 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.

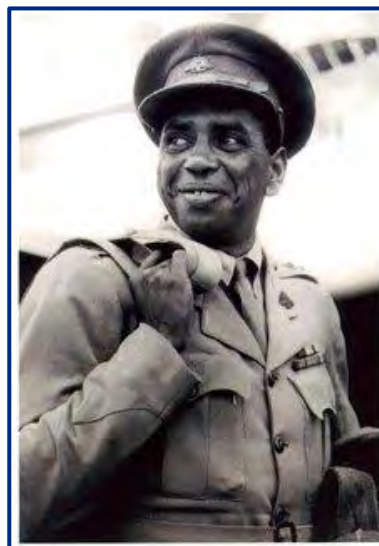
In 2013 the Trustees entered into an agreement to provide the Reg Saunders Scholarship through the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory. This year the Trustees agreed to provide an additional annual grant of \$2000 through the Institute.

## Captain Saunders

Captain Reginald Walter Saunders MBE, a member of the Gunditjmarra tribe, was born on 7 August 1920, in the small town of Purnim just outside the Framlingham Aboriginal reserve in the Western District of Victoria.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 he joined the Second Australian Imperial Force. This was part of his heritage, that of being a warrior. His people, the Gunditjmarra, had fought many battles with the white settlers in trying to retain their land.

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



Captain Reg Saunders MBE(C)

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

During the last 20 years of his life, Reg Saunders worked with the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs. He was awarded an MBE in 1977. He died in 1990.

## The 2017 Scholarship

Unfortunately, no nominations were received for the 2017 Reg Saunders Scholarship.



# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

## for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2017

# **The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**

ABN 63 008 488 097

## **Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

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# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Directors' Report

31 December 2017

The directors present their report on The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

### General information

#### Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

<b>Names</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Experience</b>
R White AM RFD	Director/National President	2 years, 1 month
R Dick	Director/A/g Nat. Pres/Nat. President	4 years, 7 months
P Aspinall	National Director	1 year, 6 months
J Brown	National Director	6 months
S Cameron CSC	National Director	2 year, 6 months
P Eveille	National Director	3 years, 7 months
J Haines AM	National Director	9 months
T Hanna AM	National Director	5 years
B Horan	National Director	1 month
J King	National Director	10 months
D J McLachlan AO	National Director	14 years, 8 months
T Roe	National Director	1 year, 1 month
R Webster OAM	National Director	10 months

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

#### Significant changes in state of affairs

No significant changes in the Company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

#### Principal activities and significant changes in nature of activities

The principal activities of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited during the financial year were:

- the continued care and welfare of ex-service personnel;
- 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;
- the provision of representation before statutory Boards and Tribunals;
- the liaison with overseas ex-service organisations; and
- overseeing the condition of service of serving personnel in the Australian Defence Force.

#### Operating results

The profit of the Company amounted to \$ 65,750 (2016: \$ (245,526)).



# **The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**

ABN 63 008 488 097

## **Directors' Report**

**31 December 2017**

### **Other items**

#### **Significant events - Gifts to the former National President**

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting held in September 2017, concerns were raised by members in regard to gifts made to the former National President of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited. In October 2017, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) issued a request for information to The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited in regard to the events concerning the gifting decision. In December 2017, representatives of the ACNC met with the Board and the CEO to discuss the gifting matter and other governance matters. As a result of that meeting, the ACNC advised that they were considering directing the Charity to appoint a governance expert. In December 2017, the Directors advised that they had received full financial restitution for the total value of the gifts previously provided to the National President and that a new by law was in development specifically relating to the giving and receiving of gifts.

#### **Events after the reporting date**

##### **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission direction**

In February 2018, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) directed The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to select a Governance Expert to:

- Undertake a Board Review;
- Undertake a Governance Review; and
- Prepare a written plan, in consultation with the Charity, to outline an action plan based on the Board and Governance review findings.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd subsequently engaged KPMG to conduct the governance review and to prepare a Report, in order to assist The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to remediate a number of internal governance issues. The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd has received the KPMG report and is considering the recommendations in order for it to comply with the ACNC directives. The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd is required to comply with the ongoing operational requirements as set out in the ACNC Direction.

##### **Ernst & Young Forensic investigation 2009-2014**

In July 2018 the Board of Directors resolved to appoint Ernst & Young to conduct a forensic investigation for the 2009 – 2014 years. As at the date of this report, the outcome of the investigation is not yet known.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Directors' Report

31 December 2017

### Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 7 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
S Cameron CSC	7	5
T Hanna AM	5	2
D J McLachlan AO	2	2
R Dick	7	6
R White AM RFD	2	-
P Eveille	2	2
P Aspinall	7	6
J Haines AM	4	1
J Brown	3	2
B Horan	1	1
J King	5	5
T Roe	7	7
R Webster OAM	5	5

### Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

During the financial year, the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the Company against a liability incurred as a director to the extent permitted by the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The directors have not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered or the amount of the premium paid in respect of the directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses insurance contracts as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

### Auditor's independence declaration

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 2017 has been received and can be found on page 4 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director: .....



Director: .....



Dated this ..... day of ..... 2019

30th May

**The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**

ABN 63 008 488 097

**Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2017, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 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.

**Vincent's Audit Pty Ltd**



**Phillip W Miller CA  
Director**

**Dated in Canberra on: 17 June 2019**

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
Revenue	4 1,648,784	1,622,719
Other income	4(a) 219,105	77,295
Employee benefits expense	(602,113)	(785,793)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(14,584)	(29,259)
Administration expenses	(58,750)	(112,801)
Forensic investigation expenses	(216,233)	(128,198)
Occupancy expenses	(149,638)	(126,410)
Meeting and conference expenses	(112,460)	(112,501)
Insurance	(13,317)	(21,232)
Legal expenses	(5,185)	(107,109)
Accounting and audit fees	(34,526)	(15,346)
POW Grassroots program expenses	(12,962)	-
Welfare and disaster expenses	(234,428)	-
Other expenses	5 (347,942)	(506,893)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>65,751</b>	<b>(245,528)</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Profit from continuing operations</b>	<b>65,751</b>	<b>(245,528)</b>
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>65,751</b>	<b>(245,528)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income, net of income tax</b>		
<b>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>		
Transfer in retained earnings - Bastiaan Fund	29,985	-
Transfer in retained earnings - Jubilee Fund	436,624	-
Transfer in retained earnings - Tait & May Hayman Fund	5,292	-
Transfer in retained earnings - Mountbatten Fund	102,064	-
Transfer in retained earnings - Welfare and Disaster Fund	257,871	-
Transfer in retained earnings ISKIA Fund	6,681,442	-
<b>Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss when specific conditions are met</b>		
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</b>	<b>7,513,278</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>7,579,029</b>	<b>(245,528)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Statement of Financial Position

As At 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	4,248,741	862,237
Trade and other receivables	7	596,682	154,577
Inventories	8	41	41
Other financial assets	9	4,089,854	500,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>8,935,318</u>	<u>1,516,855</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	10	3,540,076	116,703
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,540,076</u>	<u>116,703</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>12,475,394</u>	<u>1,633,558</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	37,673	190,717
Employee benefits	14	65,898	33,625
Other financial liabilities	13	-	69,165
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>103,571</u>	<u>293,507</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Iskia contracts	12	3,452,743	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,452,743</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>3,556,314</u>	<u>293,507</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>8,919,080</u>	<u>1,340,051</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves		115,523	115,523
Retained earnings		8,803,557	1,224,528
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>8,919,080</u>	<u>1,340,051</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

### Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

2017

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Asset Replacement Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2017</b>	<b>1,224,528</b>	<b>74,654</b>	<b>40,869</b>	<b>1,340,051</b>
Profit attributable to members of the entity	65,751	-	-	65,751
<b>Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners</b>				
Total other comprehensive income for the period	7,513,278	-	-	7,513,278
<b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>8,803,557</b>	<b>74,654</b>	<b>40,869</b>	<b>8,919,080</b>

2016

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Asset Replacement Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2016</b>	1,470,054	74,654	40,869	1,585,577
Profit attributable to members of the entity	(245,526)	-	-	(245,526)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>1,224,528</b>	<b>74,654</b>	<b>40,869</b>	<b>1,340,051</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	998,328	1,789,021
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,912,805)	(1,969,182)
Interest received	355,849	68,069
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(558,628)</u>	<u>(112,092)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	21,708	19,203
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(34,545)
Transfers in of fund investments	3,923,424	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>3,945,132</u>	<u>(15,342)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	3,386,504	(127,434)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	862,237	989,671
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6 <u>4,248,741</u>	<u>862,237</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

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, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2017 were:

- the continued care and welfare of ex-service personnel;
- 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;
- the provision of representation before statutory Boards and Tribunals;
- the liaison with overseas ex-service organisations; and
- overseeing the condition of service of serving personnel in the Australian Defence Force.

The functional and presentation currency of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by those charged with governance on the date of signing.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

### 1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (a) Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### (b) Leases

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

#### (c) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.



# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (c) Revenue and other income

##### Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis.

##### Commissions and donations

Commissions and donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

##### Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

##### Capitations

The Company has an ongoing agreement with the State and Territory Chapters in regard to capitation revenue. Capitation revenue is recognised on notification from the States and Territories as to the number of new memberships, or membership renewals, for a financial period.

##### Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Company is entitled to it.

#### (d) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### (e) Inventories

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

#### (f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (f) Property, plant and equipment

##### Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	5 - 13 years

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

#### (g) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

##### *Financial Assets*

Financial assets are divided into the following categories which are described in detail below:

- loans and receivables;
- available-for-sale financial assets; and
- held-to-maturity investments.

Financial assets are assigned to the different categories on initial recognition, depending on the characteristics of the instrument and its purpose. A financial instrument's category is relevant to the way it is measured and whether any resulting income and expenses are recognised in profit or loss or in other comprehensive income.

All income and expenses relating to financial assets are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in the 'finance income' or 'finance costs' line item respectively.

##### *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets.

After initial recognition these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Any change in their value is recognised in profit or loss.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (g) Financial instruments

The Company's trade and other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

In some circumstances, the Company renegotiates repayment terms with customers which may lead to changes in the timing of the payments, the Company does not necessarily consider the balance to be impaired, however assessment is made on a case-by-case basis.

#### *Held-to-maturity investments*

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity. Investments are classified as held-to-maturity if it is the intention of the Company's management to hold them until maturity.

Held-to-maturity investments are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis. In addition, if there is objective evidence that the investment has been impaired, the financial asset is measured at the present value of estimated cash flows. Any changes to the carrying amount of the investment are recognised in profit or loss.

#### *Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that do not qualify for inclusion in any of the other categories of financial assets or which have been designated in this category. The Company's available-for-sale financial assets comprise unlisted securities.

All available-for-sale financial assets are measured at fair value, with subsequent changes in value recognised in other comprehensive income.

Gains and losses arising from financial instruments classified as available-for-sale are only recognised in profit or loss when they are sold or when the investment is impaired.

In the case of impairment or sale, any gain or loss previously recognised in equity is transferred to the profit or loss.

Losses recognised in the prior period statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income resulting from the impairment of debt securities are reversed through the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, if the subsequent increase can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised in profit or loss.

#### *Impairment of financial assets*

At the end of the reporting period the Company assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired.

#### *Financial assets at amortised cost*

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on financial assets carried at amortised cost has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the financial assets original effective interest rate.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (g) Financial instruments

Impairment on loans and receivables is reduced through the use of an allowance account, all other impairment losses on financial assets at amortised cost are taken directly to the asset.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in profit or loss.

#### *Available-for-sale financial assets*

A significant or prolonged decline in value of an available-for-sale asset below its cost is objective evidence of impairment, in this case, the cumulative loss that has been recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment. Any subsequent increase in the value of the asset is taken directly to other comprehensive income.

#### (h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### (i) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled .

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

### 3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

#### **Key estimates - impairment of property, plant and equipment**

The Company assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Company that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

#### Key estimates - fair value of financial instruments

The Company has certain financial assets and liabilities which are measured at fair value. Where fair value has not been able to be determined based on quoted price, a valuation model has been used. The inputs to these models are observable, where possible, however these techniques involve significant estimates and therefore fair value of the instruments could be affected by changes in these assumptions and inputs.

#### Key estimates - revenue recognition - long term contracts

The Company undertakes long term contracts which span a number of reporting periods. Recognition of revenue in relation to these contracts involves estimation of future costs of completing the contract and the expected outcome of the contract. The assumptions are based on the information available to management at the reporting date, however future changes or additional information may mean the expected revenue recognition pattern has to be amended.

#### Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

### 4 Revenue and Other Income

#### Revenue from continuing operations

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Services revenue		
- capitation fees	794,905	790,698
- business development	7,953	108,154
- POW Grassroots program	77,948	-
- administration fees	46,073	51,637
	<u>926,879</u>	<u>950,489</u>
Finance income		
- held to maturity investments	327,618	-
- other interest received	36,036	68,069
<b>Total interest income</b>	<u>363,654</u>	<u>68,069</u>
Other revenue		
- royalties	4,656	96,948
- modern baking	186,547	186,110
- pooling - forensics	144,709	298,497
- other trading revenue	22,339	22,607
	<u>358,251</u>	<u>604,162</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>1,648,784</u>	<u>1,622,720</u>

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 4 Revenue and Other Income

#### (a) Other Income

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Other Income		
- reimbursement - motor vehicle	24,940	-
- other income	69,165	-
- donations	125,000	77,295
	<u>219,105</u>	<u>77,295</u>

### 5 Other expenses

Adaptive sports expenses	28,623	-
Sponsorships	13,636	-
Communication expenses	40,619	212,111
Fund expenses	54,502	-
Merchandising	55	18,457
Memorial expenses	3,246	1,500
NP expenses	79,459	127,479
Presentation expenses	3,414	4,082
Portfolio management fees	22,868	-
Subscriptions	3,915	5,100
Sundry expenses	4,314	183
Travel - domestic	45,013	130,928
Loss on disposal	3,078	7,053
- Bad debts	45,198	-
	<u>347,940</u>	<u>506,893</u>

### 6 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	4,248,741	862,237
	<u>4,248,741</u>	<u>862,237</u>

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 7 Trade and Other Receivables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	203,013	46,800
	<u>203,013</u>	<u>46,800</u>
Prepayments	33,669	33,669
Deposits on Iskia contracts	271,916	-
GST receivable	36,096	29,924
Other receivables	20,738	12,934
Rental bond	31,250	31,250
	<u>31,250</u>	<u>31,250</u>
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<u><b>596,682</b></u>	<u><b>154,577</b></u>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

### 8 Inventories

CURRENT		
At cost:		
Inventories	41	41
	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>

### 9 Other Financial Assets

#### (a) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

CURRENT		
Other financial assets	1,004,664	500,000
	<u>1,004,664</u>	<u>500,000</u>

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 10 Property, plant and equipment

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Capital works in progress		
Constitution Avenue	2,962,743	-
Fit-out	500,000	-
Total capital works in progress	<u>3,462,743</u>	<u>-</u>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	255,888	255,888
Accumulated depreciation	(208,737)	(203,292)
	<u>47,151</u>	<u>52,596</u>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	37,808	68,479
Accumulated depreciation	(12,062)	(11,545)
	<u>25,746</u>	<u>56,934</u>
Computer equipment		
At cost	104,663	104,663
Accumulated depreciation	(102,323)	(99,756)
	<u>2,340</u>	<u>4,907</u>
Library plaques		
At cost	11,877	11,877
Accumulated depreciation	(9,781)	(9,611)
	<u>2,096</u>	<u>2,266</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>3,540,076</u>	<u>116,703</u>



**The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**

ABN 63 008 488 097

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017**

**10 Property, plant and equipment  
(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts**

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Capital Works in Progress	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Computer Equipment	Library Plaques	Total
<b>Year ended 31 December 2017</b>						
Balance at the beginning of the year	-	52,596	56,934	4,907	2,266	116,703
Additions	3,462,743	-	-	-	-	3,462,743
Disposals	-	-	(24,786)	-	-	(24,786)
Depreciation	-	(5,445)	(6,402)	(2,567)	(170)	(14,584)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>3,462,743</b>	<b>47,151</b>	<b>25,746</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>3,540,076</b>

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 11 Trade and Other Payables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade payables	24,610	177,099
PAYG payable	13,063	13,618
	<u>37,673</u>	<u>190,717</u>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

### 12 Iskia Contracts

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
NON-CURRENT		
Constitution Avenue construction	2,952,743	-
Fit-out	500,000	-
	<u>3,452,743</u>	<u>-</u>

#### Constitution Avenue construction provision

A provision has been raised for the construction of a unit and commercial premises on land located at 81 Constitution Avenue Campbell ACT, including the fit-out costs of the premises. Construction of the unit and commercial premises is expected to be completed in 2021.

### 13 Other Financial Liabilities

CURRENT		
Income in advance	-	69,165
	<u>-</u>	<u>69,165</u>

### 14 Employee Benefits

Current liabilities		
Long service leave	34,073	17,546
Annual leave	31,825	16,079
	<u>65,898</u>	<u>33,625</u>

### 15 Reserves

#### (a) Asset revaluation reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records fair value movements on property, plant and equipment held under the revaluation model.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 16 Leasing Commitments

#### (a) Operating leases

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:		
- not later than one year	131,988	131,988
- between one year and five years	395,964	527,952
	<u>527,952</u>	<u>659,940</u>

Operating leases are in place for commercial office space and normally have a term of 4 years.

### 17 Members' Guarantee

The Company is incorporated under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 10 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2017 the number of members was 7 (2016: 7).

### 18 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Company is \$ 198,255 (2016: \$ 226,051).

### 19 Contingencies

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Contingent Liabilities</b>		
KPMG Governance and Compliance review	198,000	-

### 20 Related Parties

Key management personnel - refer to Note 18.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

With the exception of the National President all Directors are Presidents or representatives of their own State Branch. RSL National has commercial dealings with each State Branch on common terms and conditions. Each Director has formally notified a Standing Conflict of Interest due to this relationship.

# The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

ABN 63 008 488 097

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### 21 Significant Events

#### Gifts to the former National President

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting held in September 2017, concerns were raised by members in regard to gifts made to the former National President of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited. In October 2017, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) issued a request for information to The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited in regard to the events concerning the gifting decision. In December 2017, representatives of the ACNC met with the Board and the CEO to discuss the gifting matter and other governance matters. As a result of that meeting, the ACNC advised that they were considering directing the Charity to appoint a governance expert. In December 2017, the Directors advised that they had received full financial restitution for the total value of the gifts previously provided to the National President and that a new by law was in development specifically relating to the giving and receiving of gifts.

### 22 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on the date of signing by those charged with governance.

#### Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission direction

In February 2018, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) directed The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to select a Governance Expert to:

- Undertake a Board Review;
- Undertake a Governance Review; and
- Prepare a written plan, in consultation with the Charity, to outline an action plan based on the Board and Governance review findings.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd subsequently engaged KPMG to conduct the governance review and to prepare a Report, in order to assist The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to remediate a number of internal governance issues. The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd has received the KPMG report and is considering the recommendations in order for it to comply with the ACNC directives. The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd is required to comply with the ongoing operational requirements as set out in the ACNC Direction.

#### Ernst & Young Forensic Investigation 2009-2014

In July 2018 the Board of Directors resolved to appoint Ernst & Young to conduct a forensic investigation for the 2009 – 2014 years. As at the date of this report, the outcome of the investigation is not yet known.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

### 23 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited  
7-9 Geelong Street  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

**The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited**


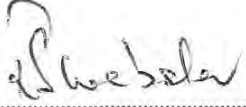
ABN 63 008 488 097

**Responsible Persons' Declaration**

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

- 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
- 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*.

Responsible person .....  ..... Responsible person .....  .....

Dated this 30th day of May 2019

## Independent Audit Report to the Members of The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2017 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

In October 2017, the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) commenced an investigation into the Charity's compliance with the ACNC Act and ACNC Regulation. As a result of this investigation, on 14 February 2018 the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) issued a direction to The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd under Section 85-5(1)(b)(i) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The ACNC Direction required The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to select a Governance Expert to:

- Undertake a Board Review
- Undertake a Governance Review, and
- Prepare a written plan, in consultancy with the Charity, to outline an action plan based on the Board and Governance review findings.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd subsequently engaged KPMG to conduct the governance review and to prepare a Report, in order to assist The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd to remediate a number of internal governance issues. The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd has received the KPMG report and is implementing the recommendations in order for it to comply with the ACNC directives. As at the date of this Report, The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd is currently in the process of implementing the KPMG report recommendations in order to comply with the ongoing operational requirements as set out in the ACNC Direction.



We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Responsible Entities 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 Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is 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 management either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Our 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 our 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 Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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 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 management.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our 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.

We 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 we identify during our audit.

Vincent's Audit Pty Ltd

Phillip Miller

Director

Canberra, 17 June 2019





## National Officers & Board Members

### National Officers

National President	Mr Rod White AM RFD Mr Robert Dick	(until March) (from March)
Deputy National President	Mr Robert Dick Mr Stewart Cameron	(until March) (from April)
Chief Executive Officer	Ms Georgie Macris	
National Treasurer	Mr David Sinclair	

### State Presidents

Victorian Branch President	Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd) Dr Robert Webster	(until February) (from February)
Western Australian President	Mr Peter Aspinall	
New South Wales Branch President	Mr John Haines Mr James Brown	(until May) (from May)
South Australian Branch President	Brigadier Tim Hanna AM Mr Bronson Horan	(until July) (from July)
Queensland Branch President	Mr Stewart Cameron CSC	
Tasmanian Branch President	Mr Robert Dick Mr Terry Roe	(until March) (Acting from March President from June)
Australian Capital Territory Branch President	Mr Peter Eveille Mr John King	(until March) (from March)

### National Headquarters Staff

National Corporate Relations Manager	Mr Stephen Henderson
EA to NP & CEO/National Secretariat Support Manager	Mrs Jan Ormerod
Office Manager	Mrs Michelle Blundell (until March)
Accounts Officer	Mrs Ann Taylor



# RSL Membership Details

- as at 31 December 2017

STATE	RSL MEMBERSHIP		WOMENS' AUXILIARY	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
ACT/Overseas	855	9	nil	nil
NSW	34,437	353	2,172	125
QLD	35,544	240	634	50
SA/NT	10,814	135	159	16
TAS	3,839	51	167	16
VIC	71,653	288	1,100	56
WA	9,978	131	nil	nil
<b>ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS</b>				
2017	167,120	1,207	4,232	263
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

## 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

7-9 Geelong Street  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609  
Postal: PO Box 481  
FYSHWICK ACT 2609  
Phone: (02) 6260 6344

#### NSW

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

#### 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

#### TAS

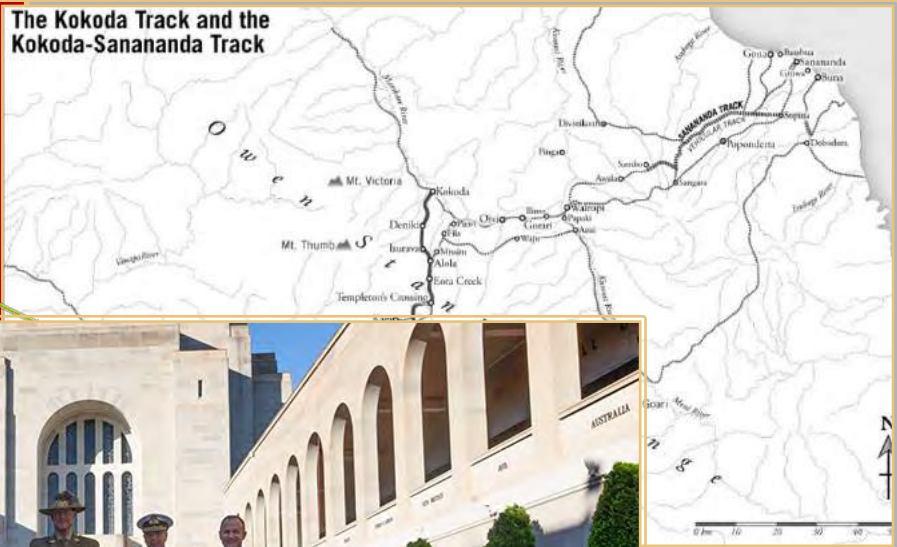
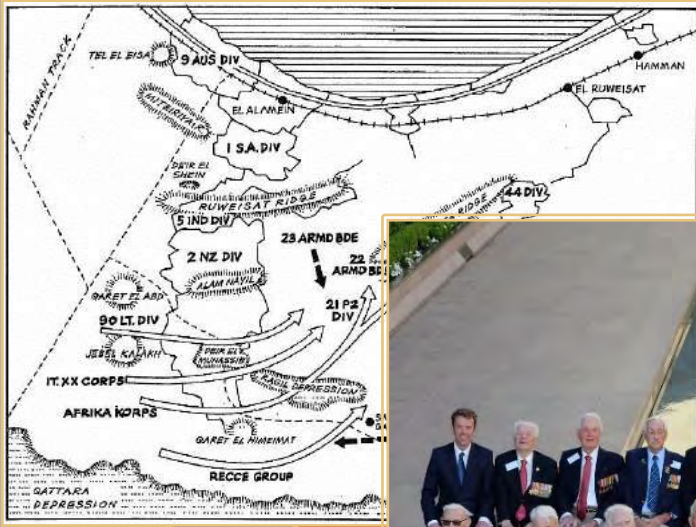
206 New Town Rd  
NEW TOWN TAS 7008  
Postal: PO Box 147  
NEW TOWN TAS 7008  
Phone: (03) 6242 8900

#### VIC

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

#### SA

Torrens Training Depot  
Victoria Drive  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
Phone: (08) 8100 7300



Inside Back Cover:

Top: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Battle of the El Alamein Campaign Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra [Photo courtesy of the AWM - AWM2017.4.271.53]

Bottom: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kokoda & Beachheads Campaign Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra [Photo courtesy of the AWM - AWM2017.4.285.47]

Back Cover: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Commemoration, ANZAC Parade, Canberra [Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs]

70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS



We Will Remember Them

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS