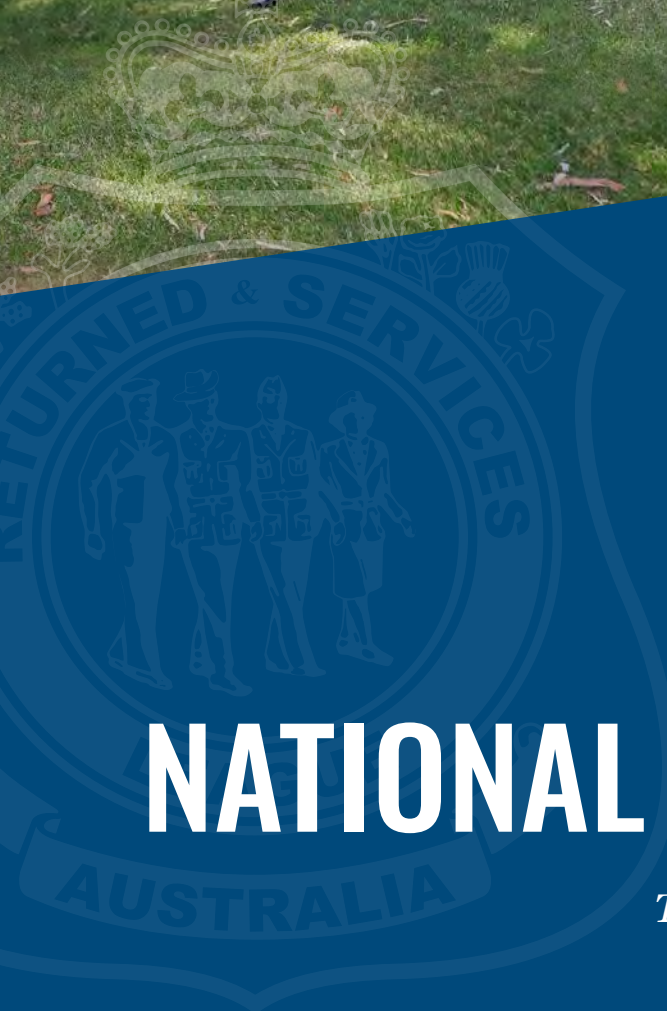




**RSL**  
Australia



# 2021

# NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

*The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.*

# CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>4</b>
RSL Snapshot	5
Overview & Key Achievements	8
Community & Welfare	10
<b>THE YEAR IN REVIEW</b>	<b>12</b>
National President's Report	13
National Chairman's Report	14
National CEO's Report	15
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>16</b>
National Veterans' Affairs Committee	17
RSL National Trusts & Funds	18
National Commemorations Team	22
<b>RSL NATIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>24</b>
RSL Australian Overseas Fund	25
RSL Veterans' Employment Program	26
RSL Mental Health Initiative	28
RSL Active	29
<b>RSL AWARDS &amp; PRIZES</b>	<b>30</b>
RSL Awards	32
RSL Prizes	38
<b>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>40</b>
Financial Report	42
<b>RSL AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>70</b>
National Board Members/National Officers	71
RSL Ambassadors	72
National Office Staff	74
Membership Statistics	75
RSL National Presidents & National Secretaries/CEOs	76

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*“The Price of Liberty is  
Eternal Vigilance.”*

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# ABOUT US

RSL Australia is a federation of its independent State Branches who in turn are comprised by their Sub-Branches.

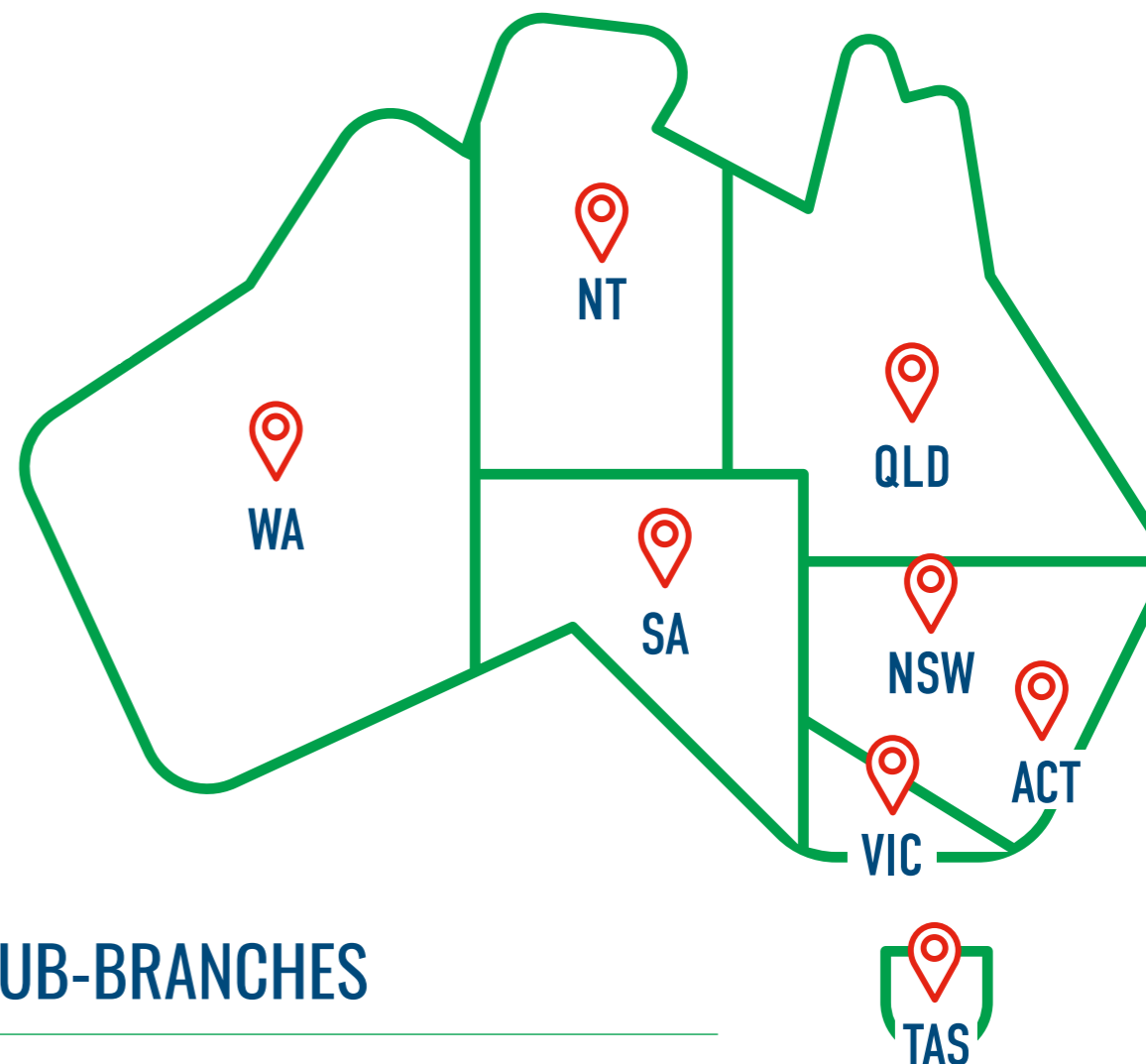
The RSL's National Office shapes the national agenda on veterans affairs on behalf of the RSL's State Branches. It provides national advocacy on behalf of current and past serving men, women and their families. It supports and coordinates national programs and activities. It owns and manages the RSL brand.

RSL Australia is overseen by a national Board comprising representatives of each State Branch supported by independent Board members.

State Branches and their Sub-Branches deliver a diverse range of services which are tailored to reflect the priorities and needs of veterans in each State.

<b>Patron</b>	<i>Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</i>
<b>National President</b>	<i>Major General Greg Melick AO RFD SC (Retd)</i>
<b>Deputy National President</b>	<i>Mr John King</i>
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	<i>Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC</i>

## STATE BRANCHES



## SUB-BRANCHES

Australian Capital Territory	<b>11</b>
New South Wales	<b>335</b>
Queensland	<b>226</b>
South Australia/Northern Territory	<b>132</b>
Tasmania	<b>49</b>
Victoria	<b>267</b>
Western Australia	<b>117</b>

## MEMBERS

Total	<b>146,597</b>
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## OUR VISION

*Together, our vision is to help Australia's Veterans and Defence families enjoy better opportunities in all aspects of their lives.*

## OUR MISSION

*To provide on behalf of Australia's Veterans and Defence families national advocacy, supportive and co-ordinated national programs and activities, more funding and optimised management of the RSL brand.*

# OVERVIEW & ACHIEVEMENTS

For over one hundred years, RSL Australia has provided a support network, services and an organisation of camaraderie and recognition for current and ex-serving members.

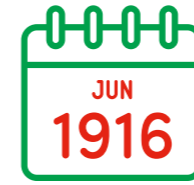
An ethos of compassion and service remains the motivating influence of the League. Our core mission has never changed and has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

RSL Australia today supports public debate, education, and has increased public awareness of issues relating to the Veterans' Affairs portfolio. RSL Australia also serves as a sounding board for the Government in the development of policy and practice.

The National Office of the League is situated in Canberra. Whilst each State and Territory have a Branch Headquarters to serve the grassroots members, the RSL National Office's role is to coordinate and promote the national interests of the organisation, making representations to Parliamentarians, Government, various Government Departments, and to other bodies.

*“Throughout Australia the RSL provides a broad range of programs and services to support current and former ADF members and their families.”*

Note: Statistics are estimates based on collaborative National and State data



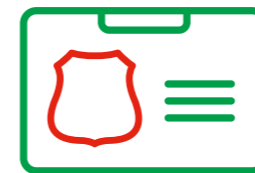
**ESTABLISHED IN 1916**  
to support veterans



**7 STATE & TERRITORY BRANCHES**



**1,137 SUB-BRANCHES**



**OVER 146,000 MEMBERS**



**OVER 100**  
in the RSL Governance/  
Leadership Team



**OVER 66,000 HOURS**  
of support, community & wellbeing  
services provided each year



**OVER \$13,300,000**  
spent on veteran welfare  
services each year



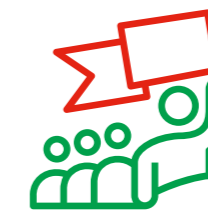
**OVER 375,000 HOURS**  
advocating for veteran  
compensation each year



**OVER 2,500**  
commemorative events  
led by RSL each year



**97 SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**  
offered worth \$750,000



Available to serve  
**OVER 373,000 ADF MEMBERS**  
since 1985



**24/7 ACCESS SUPPORT**

# COMMUNITY & WELFARE



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*“The League should take a proactive role in enhancing Australia’s aged-care facilities and programs.”*

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## High Quality Welfare Support

- Since its origins in 1916, the League has had a particular concern for the welfare of veterans.
- Our Sub-Branches provide practical support to those in need – advocacy, advice, hospital visits and ‘keeping an eye out’ for each other. We need to do this well.
- Our State Branches and National Office work with government to enhance support for all veterans, to remove anomalies and inequities. Recognising there will always be limits on what is possible, we seek fairness and greater support to those in need. We hold government to its obligations. We remain apolitical.
- Our State-managed aged-care facilities should be a model for the wider community.
- We work with other ex-service organisations in our welfare endeavours.

## Reaching out to the Community

- The League is well known. It needs also to be well understood, and its community role needs to be valued and appreciated.
- Our more than 1,300 Sub-Branches provide a presence in most Australian communities.
- We should take opportunities to work with our youth to enhance their understanding of our history and those who have served in the defence of our country.
- We should encourage responsible citizenship, respect for and pride in our nation, and an appreciation of the values of service.
- Our commemorative activities should be inclusive.
- The League should take a proactive role in enhancing Australia’s aged care facilities and programs.

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## National President's Report

My third year as RSL National President continued amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and, despite the travel and quarantine restrictions, I am heartened by the ingenuity and dedication of our many members and their families and the many great achievements which have occurred across the League despite the limitations.

Our efforts to ensure that the RSL National Office and RSL Australia Board work together in a unified manner to support the State Branches continues. I believe we have achieved much through the last year in fulfilling that ambition. I thank the RSL Australia Board for their support, and the independent Chairman David Nathan for his support in strengthening the Board's governance and delivery on our various objectives.

The RSL's great strength as an institution is the reach of our organisation, with 1,137 Sub-Branches across the nation and our membership of over 146,000. Retention of our existing membership is important – members' expectations need to be understood and met: they all need a sense of belonging and pride in their involvement. But to ensure the League's future we seek to grow our numbers; to attract new and younger members to ensure our ability to meet our goals. I am confident that our organisation will continue to thrive overall and provide a valued input to our veterans and the wider Australian community.

The RSL has always been an independent, apolitical agency representing veterans issues to both the Government and the Opposition. We also endeavour to build on our strong, cooperative relationship with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and, to ensure the voice of the RSL is in the centre of all veteran issues being dealt with by DVA, I am in regular contact with the Secretary and Repatriation Commissioner.

In a similar vein, I have had the opportunity in the last year to have regular and open dialogue with the Prime Minister, Defence Minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Similarly, the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers have given time for me as RSL National President. All have acted in the best interests of Australia's veterans and we trust this will continue into the future.

We continue to work closely with other ex-service organisations to ensure that despite our various characteristics as organisations we keep the needs of Australia's veterans at the forefront of our work.

One of the hallmarks of the League is the volunteer nature of much of our work. Across the Sub-Branches we deliver welfare, advocacy, commemorations and other support – much of this grass roots effort is taken for granted as the work of the RSL often 'flies under the radar'. I do recognise and value the great work we do for veterans and their families at all levels throughout the League – and I offer my sincere thanks and congratulation to all members for their achievements in 2021.

The League's future will always remain in the hands of its committed members and the effective contribution we all make.

**Greg Mellick**  
National President





## Chairman's Report

It was another challenging year for our Board with COVID-19 continuing and making face-to-face meetings all but impossible.

Our CEO, Phil Winter has worked tirelessly and helped the RSL deliver meaningful advocacy and programs to enhance the lives of our veterans in accordance with our Strategic Plan. That Plan starts by wanting to ensure veterans are supported by world leading programs wherever they live in this great country.

I have established a Diversity Working Group and it has already made promising first steps. There is much to do.

I am grateful to my fellow Directors for helping us to continue our work to enhance the governance, systems and processes so that the RSL is well placed for the future. I am particularly grateful to the efforts of my fellow independent Directors Maria Storti and Madeline Dermatossian.

Our financials were in line with expectations.

I remain committed to helping the RSL fulfil its true potential.

**David Nathan**  
Chairman

*“I remain committed to helping the RSL fulfil its true potential.”*

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

2021 saw the RSL continue to adjust to the challenges of COVID-19, and like all organisations there were many unforeseen demands for the RSL when adapting to the pandemic environment, while still providing services for our veterans.

The RSL continues with a range of reforms to enhance past governance and the League has achieved many positive outcomes across the nation in its ongoing role to support our veterans and families. The League's voice too, in shaping the national discussion on security, veterans' services and defence preparedness, continues to be a vital component of our advocacy role.

For the second year in a row, the League helped devise new options to commemorate ANZAC Day on 25 April with many families adopting our suggested options for small candlelit ceremonies at dawn in the driveways of homes across Australia, in lieu of traditional commemorative services.

With a century of service behind us, the League's numbers are steady across the States and Territories of Australia, with 1,137 Sub-Branches spread across Australia. We continue to advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women, to provide support and assistance on a regional, state and national basis to all our members, and to adapt existing programs and design new initiatives for support and advocacy services for all veterans. The League recognises the need to adapt and attract younger veterans, noting it is important to remember that our support extends not just to members of the RSL, but to all those who have served their country.

The RSL continues its productive relationship with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defence, particularly around the subject of transition into civilian life. The League has helped advocate for veterans on the sensitive subjects of the Brereton Report into incidents in Afghanistan and has provided support to the new Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, as it began setting up for its hearings which will commence in 2022.

The League has partnered with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to expand on Employer Support Programs to provide meaningful, sustainable career opportunities for ex-ADF members and their partners, and a new partnership with Open Arms to provide workshops for families and veterans regarding improved mental health. 2021 also saw the re-emergence of RSL Active as COVID restrictions began to reduce, to see some sports and recreational activities better coordinated across the League.

We look forward to 2022 with optimism and many lessons learned through the COVID-19 era. There is much to be done at all levels within the League to ensure we continue to provide valued assistance to serving and former ADF personnel and their families, and, as the largest ex-service organisation in Australia, the League continues to focus on this key mission – whilst recalling the long-held notion of the RSL that the 'price of liberty is eternal vigilance'.

**Phil Winter**  
Chief Executive Officer





# COMMITTEES

## National Veterans' Affairs Committee

The re-formed National Veterans' Affairs Committee met three times in 2021.

During the year, major topics of concern dealt with by NVAC included:

- Issues related to the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP)
- Preparation of the RSL submission for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the subsequent One RSL submission to the Royal Commission
- Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) funding and its determination
- Increasing backlog in DVA claims processing
- Support for the Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA) position on DFRDB scheme and associated inquiries
- Douglas Decision and consultation with the Australian Taxation Office
- Update of the progress of the DVA funded Wellbeing Centres
- Review of DVA fee schedules
- Mind Medicine Australia
- Health issues associated with "burnpits" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

NVAC reported to National Board after each meeting relating to its activities and actions.

**Robert Webster**  
Chairman



# Scholarship Ceremony

## 장학금 수여식



2021 Gapyeong Scholarship Ceremony

## RSL National Trusts & Funds

The National Board continues in their role as Corporate Trustees of the RSL National Trusts and Funds.

The combined effect of continued very low interest rates and the negligible number of donations received this year again necessitated some incursions into the capital of some Funds to meet appropriate grants.

As part of the continuing process towards consolidating the National Trusts and Funds as appropriate, the decision was taken to wind up the Mona Tait & May Hayman Memorial Fund and donate the remaining funds to the University of Canberra Nursing School.

The decision was also taken to wind-up the RSL & 6th Division Australian-Hellenic Memorial Educational Trust with the residual funds to be rolled into the RSL Foundation. The Foundation will continue to provide the scholarships and donation from the old Trust.

A Strategy Planning Day will be held in early 2022 to examine and determine the future management of the Trusts/Funds and to develop an investment strategy to obtain a better return on the funds in all of the Trusts/Funds.

## Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

*“This Fund has continued to support those beyond the RSL as was its intention when established in 1966 (the Silver Jubilee of the RSL).”*

### RSL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year two new scholarships for three years of study are awarded and the fund provides continuing scholarships for previous awardees.

These scholarships are administered by the Australian Veterans Children’s Trust (AVCAT).

The 2021 scholarships were awarded to Chloe Lestrangle-Johnstone and Cooper Wharton.

### MEDICAL STUDENT EXCHANGES

Usually, grants of \$10,000 to the University of Sydney Northern Medical School to support the exchange of two medical students from/to Fiji and PNG, and of \$5000 provided to Hoc Mai Foundation for a similar exchange to Vietnam are made from the Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, these grants were not made this year.

### KAPYONG [GAPYEONG] SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fund continued to support these scholarships which assist disadvantaged school students in South Korea. The grant is divided and distributed to several children in the Gapyeong Middle and High Schools.

The scholarships are well received and gratefully accepted in recognition of the part Australian service personnel played in the Korean War.

This year, the scholarships were again presented by the Australian Ambassador.

### RSL NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP

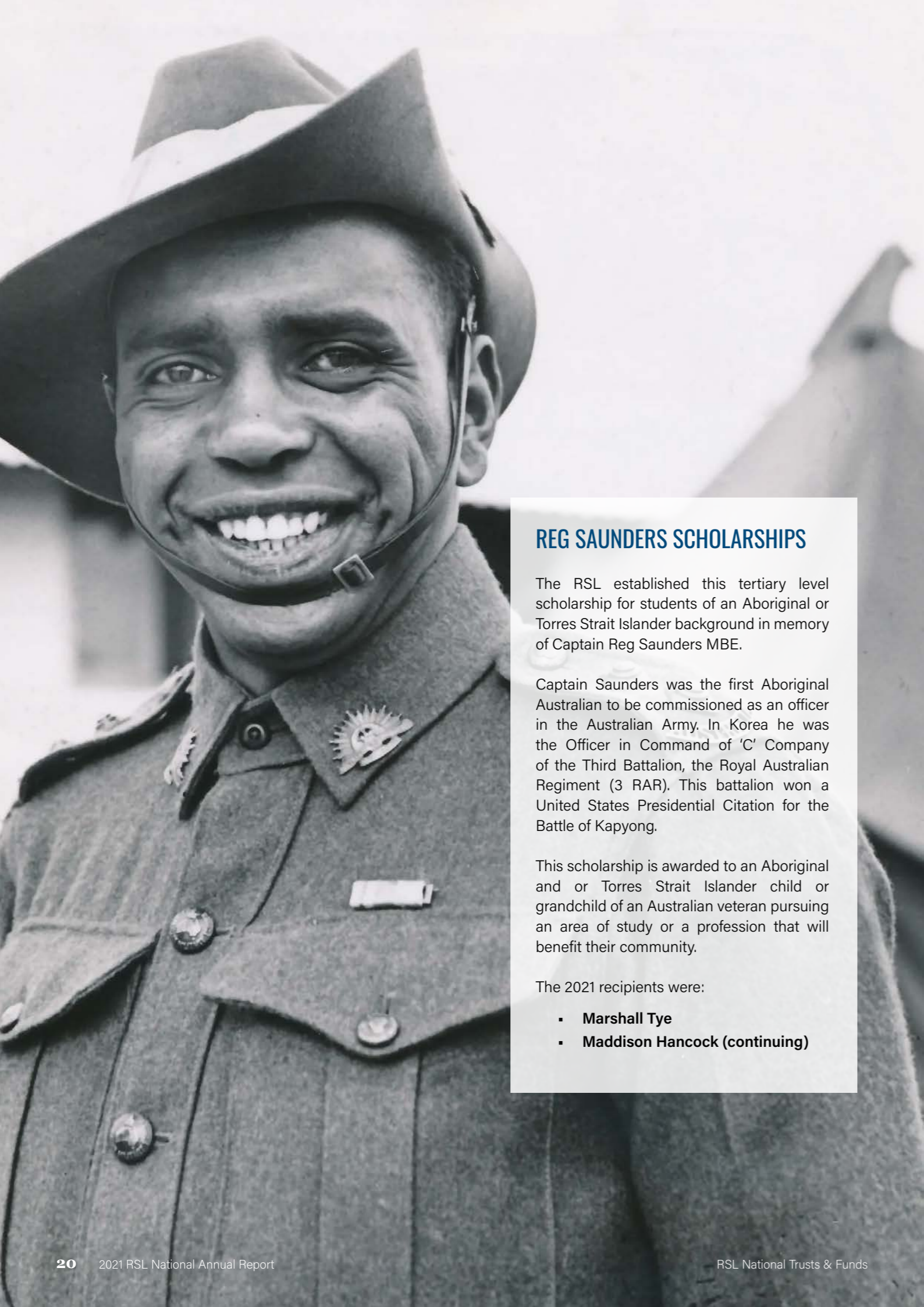
The RSL New Guinea Campaign Tertiary Scholarship provides an opportunity for a deserving student, in necessitous circumstances, who not only displays academic capabilities but also leadership potential, to undertake some form of tertiary studies, either through a University or through trade training, etc. such that they may eventually be a positive influence within the wider PNG community.

One scholarship is provided per year and, subject to satisfactory yearly academic results, the recipient may apply again the following year to be the recipient of the scholarship [to a maximum of 3 years].

This Scholarship is administered through the Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch.

The 2021 scholarship was awarded to:

- **Jaylean Kobor**



### REG SAUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The RSL established this tertiary level scholarship for students of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background in memory of Captain Reg Saunders MBE.

Captain Saunders was the first Aboriginal Australian to be commissioned as an officer in the Australian Army. 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.

This scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander child or grandchild of an Australian veteran pursuing an area of study or a profession that will benefit their community.

The 2021 recipients were:

- **Marshall Tye**
- **Maddison Hancock (continuing)**

## The RSL Foundation

*“This purpose of this Trust is, subject to the objects of the Trust, to conduct welfare and other activities in the public interest, for the benefit of returned and services personnel and the public generally.”*

### RSL & 6TH DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS

With the Trustees decision to wind-up the RSL & 6th Division Australian-Hellenic Memorial Educational Fund and roll the residual funds into the RSL Foundation, the Foundation continued to provide the program from the old Fund and offered grants to support two scholarships to Cretan tertiary students, as well as the annual grant to the Bishop of Spili's Fund.

Normally the Fund provides scholarships to support two Cretan tertiary students annually, but this year to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, three scholarships were awarded.

The 2021 recipients were:

- **Ms Evaggelia Fragkaki**
- **Ms Maria Motzaki**
- **Ms Ioanna Deredaki**



Once again, the Australian Ambassador to Greece, His Excellency Mr Arthur Spyrou presented the scholarships to the recipients on behalf of the League.

### RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Trust

There were no grants provided from this Trust during 2021.

### Mountbatten Memorial Fund

This fund makes an annual grant to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-service League (RCEL) each year to support disadvantaged ex-servicemen, who had been part of the British Forces, and their dependants within the poorer nations of the Commonwealth. Australia is among other nations of the British Commonwealth who jointly support this cause.

# National Commemorations Team

In late 2020 the RSL Australia National Board authorised a National Commemoration Working Group (referred to as the NCT), led by the National CEO and comprising representatives from all States and Territories, to formulate a national multi-state collaborative approach to commemorations. The Team is tasked to engage in paying tribute to all those who have served Australia, including those who died in service, veterans who are no longer with us and today's veterans.

The scope of the NCT includes activities for national commemorations, such as:

- Commemorative events/campaigns – including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day
- Ceremonial and protocol guidelines
- Accessible information for the public
- Coordinate national presentations for significant national commemorations for dissemination via social media platforms, websites and communications to members

During 2021 the Working Group worked collaboratively on the commemorations for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and despite the limitations of COVID-19, the 'Light Up the Dawn' and 'Remember to Remember' campaigns were successful in providing the nation with opportunities to reflect and honour those who have served.

Post COVID there is likely to be a move back to more traditional commemorations and the NCT will continue to work collectively and collaboratively to ensure that a coordinated and cogent approach is maintained to support whatever format future commemorations may take.



*“The Team is tasked to engage in paying tribute to all those who have served Australia, including those who died in service, Veterans who are no longer with us and today’s Veterans.”*

*We will Remember them*



## RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund

The RSL 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, and glucose confectionery, salted peanuts or cashews, health bars and lollies and other items which are available in our supermarkets. A letter of appreciation from the League on behalf of all Australians is 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 Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs joining with serving members of the Deployed Forces Support Unit (39th 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 (39th 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:

- 39th Op. Support Battalion, Randwick Barracks
- Other Randwick local serving members of the ADF
- Volunteers from St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch and Malabar Sub-Branch
- LTCOL Mark (Robbo) Robinson (Retd)
- RSL Australia National Office staff

Unfortunately only the March packages were dispatched this year, as Covid shutdowns later in the year prevented the packing scheduled for October.

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.

# RSL NATIONAL PROGRAMS



# RSL Veterans' Employment Program

RSL Australia was successful with its application to receive a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) from the Enhanced Employment Support to Veterans (EESV) program which is designed to empower ex-service organisations and other non-for-profit organisations to assist veterans transitioning out of the Australian Defence Force to employment in a civilian career.

The RSL Veterans' Employment Program (RVEP) was developed and implemented gradually in 2020. This free program is available to veterans, current serving ADF personnel, Reservists, and their partners and immediate family members. The Program provides career transition supports ranging from CV assistance to connections with potential employers and, combined with a holistic approach, ensures participants will be employment ready if they choose this pathway.

During 2021, the Program continued to evolve and expand across Australia. Although COVID-19 had an initial impact, the Program has successfully supported the veteran community with virtual bespoke consultations and presence at the virtual ADF Transition Booths. Interested applicants do not need to be an RSL member to participate in the Program and are welcome to contact the Program representatives in their State, or the National Office, for further information and support.

RSL Australia is pleased with the implementation of the RVEP in 2021 and anticipates further success in 2022 as the Program becomes further embedded in the veteran community across Australia.

**Suzie Michaelis**  
National Program Manager

 CAREER TRANSITION

 CAREER NAVIGATION

 CAREER COACHING

 CV & COVER LETTERS

 INTERVIEW SKILLS

 PATHWAY PROGRAMS TO UPSKILL

 EMPLOYER CONNECTIONS

# RSL Mental Health Initiative

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) funding was allocated from the 2019/2020 budget for a partnership agreement between 'Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling' and the RSL. The agreement is to deliver a 'National Mental Health Training Program' to the veteran community and their supporting agencies across all states and territories. This contract will remain in force until 30 September 2022.

To promote volunteer training in suicide recognition and intervention in the veteran community RSL Australia, in consultation with Open Arms, engaged a Mental Health Initiative Training Coordinator at the end of 2020. The position was suspended at the end of March 2021 due to the COVID pandemic restrictions. The position was reactivated at the end of July 2021 through a new recruitment process. At the same time, a program support team was formed that included points of contact across all RSL Branches.

The workshop and delivery requirements, as well as a communication and marketing strategy, were developed in collaboration with Open Arms and the program was launched in October.

The RSL Ambassadors, Cherisa Pearce and Pete

Rudland, who have a vested interest in mental health and are well respected within the RSL and the Defence community, agreed to champion this initiative.

The uncertainty caused by COVID 19 lockdowns restricted travel capabilities during the 2021 period. These restrictions lead to the requirement of conducting stakeholder engagement online. This approach proved to be beneficial for the program. It enabled the Mental Health Training Coordinator to connect with several Sub-Branches daily and has become the preferred approach to stakeholder engagement.

Although the ability to host workshops during the 2021 period was limited due to the pandemic, two workshops were conducted by the end of 2021. The initial workshop in November was opened by RSL Ambassador Cherisa Pearce.

**Cyndy Jakobi**  
National Mental Health Training Coordinator



## RSL Active

Building on our determination to encourage veterans to join other veterans and local communities to get active, find a new passion or hobby and spend time in nature, and encouraged by the success of the RSL Active program in Victoria and programs in a few other States, in late 2021, the CEO instituted a working group to scope out collaboration opportunities for enhanced RSL sports and recreational activities across the country through our RSL Branches.

The initial meeting of the working group in November 2021 identified dedicated state level sports programs already existed in some Branches, with others having programs embedded in community sports at Sub-Branch level. These existing programs included recreation activities such as painting, guitar tuition and outdoor activities including sailing, running, trekking, cycling and surfing.

We are hopeful that the League's RSL Active Program will uncover nationwide opportunities for sports organisations which support veterans, and are looking forward to seeing some key national level events for RSL Active currently being scoped come to fruition in the new year.

# RSL AWARDS & PRIZES





## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

### ACT

AARON, J R  
THOMAS, A R

### NSW

SMITH, E P  
TOMKINS OAM, G

### QLD

RENNIE, M

### TAS

KAINE MBE OAM, W E

### VIC

BONESS, R	MEAD OAM, G F	MURPHY, T	PITTS, K
CAINES, I	MORSE, N	NOLTE, D	WELLS OAM, J

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

### ACT

GILCHRIST, J A F

### NSW

BAILEY, J W	FRYER, A	LYNCH, S	SPENCER, G
BANNISTER, T	GARLAND, E A	PARK, J	TUCKER, K
BRIDLE OAM RFD, J	GEYSON, G	ROSER, G	WRIGHT, W C
CROUCH, D K	HAGAN, K	ROUTER, B	
EDWARDS, W	HEARNE, R	SMYTH, P D	

### QLD

BIGGS, S	LAW, J	NUNN, E	ROGERS, R
FAIRON, P	MEIKIEJOHN, B	PALMER, C	SAXON, P
GEORGE, D	MILLNER, J	PATON, L	STEELE, N
KLEIDON, N	MORSE, R	PENNELL, A	STEWART, C

### SA

CATES, P H	HANCOCK, M W	MEERS, J J	WRIGHT, B J
FITZGERALD, K A	KLOPP, R G	SLEIMAN, E	

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP (CONT'D)

### TAS

BALLARD, D A  
GOODWIN, R

### VIC

ALLEN, P	DAVIES, S	LEWIS, J	THOMAS OAM, P
ALLENDER, K	DOSSER, E	LUCAS, L	WESLEY, K
ARNOLD, J	GRETTON, M	MARTIN, P	WHITELAW, P
BERKELEY, G	HAWARD, M J	MCKIRDY, D	WILKIE, R
BINGHAM, G	HEAZLEWOOD, D	O'DONOVAN, C	
CHRISTIE, D	KEATING, M	RICHARDSON, R	
COOPER, J	LAMBIE, R	SHARD, L	

### WA

ANDERTON, K H	DAVIES, M	GRIFFITHS, L C	SWEET OAM, R
ARNOLD DSM OAM, R	DEMPSEY, P	O'DONNELL, S A	TARR RFD ED, W
AUSTIN, W G	GELMI, J	REDMOND, J	
BULLIARD, G J	GILLMORE, R C	REYNOLDS, T	

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY/AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

### SA

BLEACH, Y	FRANKS, G	MASLEN, S	PERRY, P
BUTTENSHAW, P	FULLERTON, M	PARKER, P	WHIELDON, L

### QLD

COLLINS, B	MAYFIELD, C	SARGENT, K
DWYER, G	ROBERTS, B	

### SA

ENGLAND, A J

### TAS

CASH, A	CUNNINGHAM OAM, C	MORSE, A
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### VIC

MARSHAL, T  
WALSH, C

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT & GOLD BADGE

### VIC

IACONO, U L      POWER, T      ROWLER, P      SLATTERY, J

### WA

STOKES AC, K

## 50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

### QLD

BOOTH, B BOWE, R BROWNE, R CHALK, D COLES, G DEWHURST, R DEXTER, G DOCHERTY, J	ELIASON, L FENTON, J FOOT OAM, M HARVEY, R HEARD, A (B) HIGGS, G JACOBSON, W JAMIESON, A	KEARNEY, W KRAUSE, W KRIEGER, L LAKE, W LEGG, O LISTER, L MCGREGOR, G MURRAY, T	NASH, L NORMAN, A ROCKETT, M SHAW, D SHAW, D SIMPSON, S TYAN, M WOODCOCK, D
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### SA

GRANT, R H      HECTOR, J      KLOPP, R G      STANFORD, P

### TAS

MAUGHAN, J A  
PETRIE, K A

### VIC

BARCLAY, K CARLAND, W GUY, I	HANNETT, L HOWELL, P MYERS, K	ROGERS, K TOPP, R WALKLEY, G	WALSH, T
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### WA

BURRIDGE MG, J EVANS, P C KOCH, W	NIELD, R PRYCE D RANFORD, D C	REDMOND, J WARNOCK, A	WILLIAMS, L J
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## 75 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

### NSW

COLLINS, B      PARTRIDGE, A      PARTRIDGE, J      PRESSNELL, D  
HARRIS, B

### QLD

SNELL, N

### SA

FROST, V C

### VIC

CAUSER, E  
FORBES, B

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

### ACT

Bunnings Fyshwick  
Bunnings Gungahlin

## SUB-BRANCH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES

### 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### NSW

Glenorie RSL Sub-Branch [Feb 1952]

#### SA

Port Noarlunga/Christies Beach RSL Sub-Branch [Aug 1951]

## SUB-BRANCH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES (CONT'D)

### 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### SA

Magill RSL Sub-Branch [Dec 1946]

#### TAS

Lenah Valley RSL Sub-Branch [Mar 1946]

#### VIC

Nar Nar Goon RSL Sub-Branch [June 1946]

### 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### NSW

Castle Hill and District RSL Sub-Branch [Aug 1941]

#### SA

Macclesfield RSL Sub-Branch [Feb 1941]

### 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### NSW

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch [May 1919]  
City of Newcastle RSL Sub-Branch [May 1917]

City of Orange RSL Sub-Branch [Jan 1920]  
Merrylands RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]

#### SA

Wallaroo RSL Sub-Branch [Aug 1918]

#### TAS

Bruny Island RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Cygnet RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Deloraine RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Esperance RSL Sub Branch [1920]

Oatlands RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Ross RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Sorell RSL Sub Branch [1920]  
Westbury RSL Sub Branch [1920]

## SUB-BRANCH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES (CONT'D)

### VIC

Beechworth RSL Sub-Branch [Feb 1921]  
Cohuna RSL Sub-Branch [July 1921]  
Colac RSL Sub-Branch [July 1921]  
Coleraine RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Corryong RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Fish Creek RSL Sub-Branch [Mar 1921]  
Hastings RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Heyfield RSL Sub-Branch [May 1921]  
Kilmore RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Maffra RSL Sub-Branch [May 1921]

Mathoura RSL Sub-Branch [July 1921]  
Nathalia RSL Sub-Branch [Mar 1921]  
Ouyen RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Pakenham RSL Sub-Branch [May 1921]  
Rochester RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Stratford RSL Sub-Branch [May 1921]  
Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch [June 1921]  
Terang RSL Sub-Branch [May 1921]  
Yallourn RSL Sub-Branch [Apr 1921]



## RSL 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 ANZAC Peace Prize was not awarded in 2021.

### 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 2021 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

**Mr Bill Collidge of Riverton, WA** - in recognition of his many years of selfless and extraordinary service in association with the WA Police Force and the RSL, supporting welfare and employment projects for veterans and their families, disadvantaged youth, Defence Force Cadets WA and the wider community of Riverton.

**Mr Denis Thompson of the Sunshine Coast, QLD** - in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to provide support to veterans through the Cooroy Pomona RSL Sub-Branch, the RSL Queensland Sunshine Coast District and to the wider community of the Sunshine Coast.

## 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 Chloe Reay RAN**



### ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF AUSTRALIA

The National RSL Prize is presented to the 2nd Class Cadet of the Royal Military College of Australia who has attained the best results in all assessed subjects.

June Graduation  
**Staff Cadet Thammen Schmidt**

December Graduation  
**Staff Cadet Kieran Gabriel**



Prize recipient Staff Cadet Thammen Schmidt

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## National Financial Report

The following Financial Report addresses the audited statements for the National Office of the League for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The surplus from operations for the year ended 31 December 2021 was \$132,846 compared to a deficit of \$1,106,120 for the prior year. The 2021 result includes operational funding from the States and Territories of \$860,000 whereas in the prior year no operational funding was received from the States. In addition, 2020 total expenses include a fair value adjustment (write-down) on non-current assets of \$211,242 which was reversed in 2021 due to the significant improvement in the property market, including commercial property and expenses were incurred in respect of the management of trademarks. The operations also include funding and expenses associated with the implementation of the Strategic Plan (\$79,497) and the Enhanced Employment Support for Veterans Program (EESV) which is a grant program from the Department of Veteran Affairs (\$887,762). The income and expenses are equal for these two items.

The investment property has benefited from the strong property market and has increased in value by \$100,000. This movement together with further small adjustment to the fair value of the commercial property has resulted in total comprehensive income for the year of \$235,230 compared to a total comprehensive loss for 2020 of \$1,035,620.

In 2021 the revenue increase from \$798,957 to \$2,038,142 is primarily explained by the operational funding provided by the States of \$860,000, the Strategic Plan funding and the EESV grant. At the same time, the COVID stimulus funding of \$100,000 was only available in 2020. The expenses for 2021 were constant between years at circa \$1,905,296. However, compared to the prior year the EESV grant expenses were higher, and there were expenses on trademark management and less expenses by the funds and the fair value adjustment (write-down) to non-current assets was recorded in 2021 and then due to the performance of the property market reversed in 2021.

The total assets of RSL in 2021 were \$8,701,059 compared to \$8,659,736 in the prior year. The RSL's total assets include property, plant, and equipment (National Office), the investment property, cash on deposit and cash. Liabilities in 2021 were \$1,736,221 compared to \$6,729,608 in the prior year. The main liability is the unearned income associated with the EESV and the cash to meet this liability is included in the cash and equivalent balance. The net assets in 2021 were \$6,964,838 compared to \$6,729,608 in the prior year. The increase in net assets is primarily due to increases in the fair value of the properties.

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

The notes to the audited statements also show the balances of the various Trust Funds managed by the National Trustees.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation for the considerable efforts, guidance and support of the National Office staff and the auditor in the current operating period.

**Maria Storti**  
Chair  
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee





# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2021

*The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.*

ACN 008 488 097

## DIRECTORS REPORT

Your directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

### Directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are (unless otherwise noted below):

#### Directors (1 January to 31 December 2021)

Name	Position Held	Period of appointment if other than for full year
D Nathan	Chairman/Non-Member Director	
A G Melick	National President	
P Aspinall	Member Director	To 30 November 2021
C Cates	Member Director	
R Dick	Member Director	To 8 June 2021
A Ferris	Member Director	To 16 November 2021
R James	Member Director	
J King	Member Director	
R Webster	Member Director	
B Quinn	Member Director	From 18 June 2021
J Whitehead	Member Director	From 16 November 2021
M Dermatossian	Non-Member Director	
M Storti	Non-Member Director	
J McCourt	Alternate Director	To 17 March 2021
D Brown	Alternate Director	
W Taylor	Alternate Director	To 30 September 2021
J Black	Alternate Director	
T Whitelaw	Alternate Director	
L Webb	Alternate Director	To 11 September 2021
G Leitch	Alternate Director	To 14 May 2021
D Anderson	Alternate Director	From 17 March 2021
M Gallagher	Alternate Director	From 18 June 2021
D Callaghan	Alternate Director	From 1 December 2021

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

### Company Secretary

The following person held the position of company secretary at the end of the financial year:

Philip Winter                      Company Secretary

## DIRECTORS REPORT

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company 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;
- Provision of representation before statutory Boards and Tribunals;
- The liaison with overseas ex-service organisations; and
- Overseeing the conditions of service of serving personnel in the Australian Defence Force.

No significant changes in the nature of the company's activities occurred during the financial year.

### Operating Result

The surplus of the company for the year amounted to \$235,230 (2020 deficit: \$1,035,620).

### Review of Operations

A review of operations of the company during the financial year indicated that there have been no significant changes to operations of the company during the financial year.

### Significant Changes in State of Affairs

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

### After Balance Date Events

As discussed in *Note 13 Events After the Balance Date*, the coronavirus remains first and foremost a very major public health issue, but it is also having very significant effects on the Australian economy. There is considerable uncertainty about the near-term outlook for the Australian economy and how that might impact on the activities of RSL Australia. Directors are conscious of this uncertainty and are taking appropriate steps to ensure the continued operation and viability of the company in supporting the veteran community.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

### Future Developments

The company expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the company's operations.

## DIRECTORS REPORT

### Dividends Paid or Recommended and Options

In accordance with the company's Constitution, the company is limited by guarantee and accordingly no shares or options have been issued. No dividends are paid by the company.

### Indemnifying Officers or Auditor

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.

### Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, six meetings of directors were held. Attendance by each director were as follows:

Directors' Meetings		
	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Directors –		
D Nathan	6	6
A G Melick	6	6
P Aspinall	6	5
C Cates	6	6
R Dick	3	3
A Ferris	5	4
R James	6	6
J King	6	6
R Webster	6	6
B Quinn	3	3
J Whitehead	0	0
M Dermatossian	6	6
M Storti	6	6
J McCourt *	0	0
D Brown *	0	0
W Taylor *	0	0
J Black *	0	0
T Whitelaw *	0	0
L Webb *	0	0
G Leitch *	0	0
D Anderson *	1	1
M Gallagher *	0	0
D Callaghan *	0	0

\* - Alternate Director

## DIRECTORS REPORT

### Meetings of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

During the financial year, five meetings of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee were held. Attendance by committee members were as follows:

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Meetings		
	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Maria Storti	5	5
Madeline Dermatossian	5	5
Robert Webster	2	2
John King	2	2

### Environmental Issues

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

### Proceedings on Behalf of the Company

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any of those proceedings.

The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead 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 2021 has been received and can be found on page 7 of the Financial Report.

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



Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

## RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

The responsible persons' declare that in their opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 to 25:
  - (a) comply with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and *Accounting Standards* as described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.





AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd  
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PO Box 776, Mitchell ACT 2911

Telephone: 02 6170 6870

Email: [admin@accountability-act.com.au](mailto:admin@accountability-act.com.au)  
[www.accountability-act.com.au](http://www.accountability-act.com.au)

Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2021**

	NOTE	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	2	2,038,142	795,957
Employee benefits expense		(579,460)	(546,159)
Grant expenses		(884,762)	(527,830)
Strategic plan initiatives		(79,497)	-
Depreciation and amortisation	8	(83,267)	(88,094)
Administration expenses		(88,024)	(52,959)
Occupancy		(23,377)	(32,966)
Meeting and conference		(4,219)	(26,925)
Insurance		(20,136)	(7,959)
Legal		(15,501)	(12,187)
Trademark management		(129,438)	-
Investment management		(16,707)	(10,466)
Accounting and audit		(13,500)	(13,860)
Provision for doubtful debts		54,302	-
Fund expenses		(52,448)	(164,395)
National President		(30,760)	(25,391)
Non-member director fees and expenses		(139,412)	(152,058)
Other expenses		(10,332)	(29,586)
Fair value adjustments – non-current assets	8	211,242	(211,242)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(1,905,296)</b>	<b>(1,902,077)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from continuing operations</b>		<b>132,846</b>	<b>(1,106,120)</b>
<i>Other comprehensive income</i>			
Fair value adjustment – non-current assets	8	2,384	-
Fair value adjustment of investment		100,000	70,500
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>235,230</b>	<b>(1,035,620)</b>

**AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60.40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2021 there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditors' independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**AccountAbility**

**Anthony Wilson**  
Registered Company Auditor  
Canberra, ACT  
30 March 2022

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	NOTE	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,612,333	2,194,277
Trade and other receivables	5	242,914	30,216
Inventories		42	41
Other financial assets	6	2,990,841	3,007,059
Other current assets	7	181,366	9,577
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,027,496</b>	<b>5,241,170</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	2,923,563	2,768,566
Investment property at valuation	1(g)	750,000	650,000
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>3,673,563</b>	<b>3,418,566</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>8,701,059</b>	<b>8,659,736</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	218,083	157,657
Unearned income	10	1,458,169	1,728,599
Provisions	11	59,969	43,872
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,736,221</b>	<b>1,930,128</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,736,221</b>	<b>1,930,128</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>6,964,838</b>	<b>6,729,608</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		6,791,954	6,618,239
Reserves		172,884	111,369
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>6,964,838</b>	<b>6,729,608</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Replacement Reserve \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2020</b>	7,724,359	40,869	-	7,765,228
(Deficit) from continuing operations	(1,106,120)	-	-	(1,106,120)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	70,500	70,500
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>6,618,239</b>	<b>40,869</b>	<b>70,500</b>	<b>6,729,608</b>
Surplus from continuing operations	132,846	-	-	132,846
Other comprehensive income	-	-	102,384	102,384
Transfers from reserves	40,869	(40,869)	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>6,791,954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>172,884</b>	<b>6,964,838</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	NOTE	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from members, grantors and others *		1,547,199	2,866,641
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,138,114)	(1,595,260)
Interest received		17,390	68,535
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash generated by/(used in) operating activities	12	(573,525)	1,339,916
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from financial assets		16,218	314,514
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(24,637)	(31,364)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash generated by/(used in) investing activities		(8,419)	283,150
<i>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</i>		(581,944)	1,623,066
<b>Cash at beginning of the financial year</b>		2,194,277	571,211
<b>Cash at end of the financial year</b>	4	<u>1,612,333</u>	<u>2,194,277</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

The financial report is for The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited as an individual company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial report is a general-purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

**Accounting Policies**

**(a) Revenue**

Revenue recognised under AASB 15 is measured at the amount which the company expects to receive in consideration for satisfying performance obligations to a customer or grantor. A performance obligation is the distinct good or service defined within the contract with a customer or grantor. The transaction price is allocated to one or more performance obligations contained within the contract, with revenue being recognised as or when the performance obligation is satisfied.

*Timing of Revenue Recognition*

Revenue is recognised either at a point in time or over time, when (or as) the entity satisfies performance obligations by transferring the promised goods or services to its customers.

If the entity satisfies a performance obligation before it receives the consideration, the entity recognises either a contract asset or a receivable in its statement of financial position, depending on whether something other than the passage of time is required before the consideration is due.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

**(b) Capitation**

The company has a current agreement with the State and Territory Branches in regard to State Funding. Funding is received from the States based on Service member numbers for each State Branch.

**(c) Taxation**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**(d) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the reporting date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages, salaries and annual leave which may be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the net present value.

Contributions are made by the company to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

**(e) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments.

**(f) Inventories**

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

**(g) Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

**Property (including commercial and investment property)**

Land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in Other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation reserve in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same classes of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus; all other decreases are charged to the Statement of comprehensive income.

As the revalued buildings are depreciated the difference between depreciation recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income, which is based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset, and the depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from the revaluation surplus to retained earnings. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Freehold land and buildings that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

**Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings is depreciated either on a straight-line or declining-balance method basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Buildings	2.5% - 5.0%
Fitout	2.5%
Furniture and fittings	11.5% - 20.0%
Plant and equipment	20.0% - 40.0%
Plaques and statuettes	20%

The residual values for assets and their useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Asset classes carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the Statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

**(h) Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

*Classification and subsequent measurement*

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value or amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The subsequent measurement depends on the classification of the financial instrument as described below.

*Financial assets*

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

*Available-for-sale financial assets*

Financial assets that meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost:

- the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets that meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI):

- the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling the financial assets; and
- the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

By default, all other financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Despite the above, the company may make the following irrevocable election/designation at initial recognition of a financial asset:

- the company may irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in fair value of an equity instrument in other comprehensive income if certain criteria are met; and
- the company may irrevocably designate a financial asset that meets the amortised cost or FVTOCI criteria as measured at FVTPL if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch.

*Financial liabilities*

All financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method or at FVTPL.

*Impairment of financial assets*

The company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or at FVTOCI. No impairment loss is recognised for investments in equity instruments. The amount of expected credit losses is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition of the respective financial asset.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

The company recognises lifetime expected credit losses for trade receivables. The expected credit losses on these financial assets are estimated based on the company's historical credit loss experience adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors, general economic conditions and an assessment of both the current as well as the future direction of conditions at the reporting date, including time value of money where appropriate.

**(i) Impairment of Assets**

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of comprehensive income.

Where future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an asset class, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the class of asset belongs.

**(j) Comparative Figures**

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year. Refer also note (l) of the Statement of Significant Accounting Policies.

**(k) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated in to the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company. Refer also Note 13 Events After the Balance Date.

*Key estimate 2021* – valuation of commercial and investment property.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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

*Key estimates – Impairment of receivables and property, plant and equipment*

The company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company that may lead to impairment of assets, covering both receivables and property, plant and equipment.

The receivables at the reporting dates have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivable's balance are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. Any impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income.

Property, plant and equipment, including the investment property, have been reviewed at the reporting date to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of these assets are impaired. Where indications of impairment exist, the assets recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount. Refer also *Note 8 Property, Plant and Equipment*.

Fair value less costs to sell or current replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

**(l) New, Revised or Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Company**

The company has adopted all of the new, revised or amended accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period. The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any material impact on the financial performance or position of the company in either the current or prior financial reporting periods.

**(m) Disclosure of fund activities**

These financial statements include amounts relating to the assets, liabilities, equity, revenues and expenses for the activities of the following funds:

- Australian Forces Overseas Fund
- Jubilee Commemorative Fund
- Mona Tait and May Hayman Memorial Fund
- Mountbatten Fund.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2. REVENUE</b>		
<b>Revenue from continuing operations</b>		
<i>Specific purpose funding</i>		
Operational funding	860,000	-
Strategic plan funding from States	79,497	-
Other funding received	9,091	-
	<u>948,588</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Services revenue</i>		
Capitation fees	3,750	4,115
Grant programs		
Open Arms	48,765	30,845
Department of Veterans' Affairs - Enhanced Employment Support for Veterans	887,762	527,830
	<u>940,277</u>	<u>562,790</u>
<i>Finance income</i>		
Held to maturity/other interest received	14,450	38,498
Interest received from Fund investments	2,360	20,585
Rental income	38,088	32,155
	<u>54,898</u>	<u>91,238</u>
<i>Other revenue</i>		
Royalties	4,916	6,619
Merchandising revenue	45,000	20,000
Other trading revenue	44,463	15,310
COVID stimulus funding	-	100,000
	<u>94,379</u>	<u>141,929</u>
 Total revenue from continuing operations	 <u>2,038,142</u>	 <u>795,957</u>

**NOTE 3. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

	Short Term Benefits	Total
	\$	\$
<b>2021</b> Total compensation	211,018	211,018
<b>2020</b> Total compensation	208,050	208,050

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash at bank	1,612,333	2,194,277
	<u>1,612,333</u>	<u>2,194,277</u>
 <b>NOTE 5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade receivables (gross)	195,466	200,414
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	-	(182,780)
Trade receivables (net)	195,466	17,634
Other receivables	45,272	9,826
Accrued revenue	2,176	2,756
	<u>242,914</u>	<u>30,216</u>
 <b>NOTE 6. FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term deposits	2,990,841	3,007,059
	<u>2,990,841</u>	<u>3,007,059</u>
 <b>NOTE 7. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments		
Other prepaid expenses	181,366	9,577
	<u>181,366</u>	<u>9,577</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTE 8. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Commercial Property <sup>(1)</sup>	Office Fitout	Furnishings	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Plaques	TOTAL
As at 1 January 2021							
Gross book value	2,091,952	658,048	2,340	13,543	33,157	12,632	2,811,672
Accumulated depreciation	-	(18,593)	(477)	(3,759)	(8,238)	(12,039)	(43,106)
<b>TOTAL as at 1 January 2021</b>	<b>2,091,952</b>	<b>639,455</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>9,784</b>	<b>24,919</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>2,768,566</b>
Additions	-	-	-	15,962	8,675	-	24,637
Depreciation	(52,299)	(17,734)	(311)	(6,997)	(5,807)	(119)	(83,267)
Valuation adjustment	161,327	-	-	-	-	-	161,327
Writeback – fully written down assets	-	-	-	-	-	(11,877)	(11,877)
Writeback – accumulated depreciation	52,299	-	-	-	-	11,877	64,176
<b>TOTAL as at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>2,253,279</b>	<b>621,721</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>18,750</b>	<b>27,788</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>2,923,563</b>
Total as at 31 December 2021 represented by:							
Gross book value	2,253,279	658,048	2,340	29,505	41,832	755	2,985,760
Accumulated depreciation	-	(36,327)	(788)	(10,756)	(14,045)	(281)	(62,197)
<b>TOTAL as at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>2,253,279</b>	<b>621,721</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>18,750</b>	<b>27,787</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>2,923,563</b>

(1) – Valuation undertaken as at 31 December 2021 by MMJ Canberra (Haydn Rudat AAPI and Phil Green AAPI, Certified Practising Valuers)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTE 9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT		
Trade creditors and accruals	218,222	153,084
Borrowings	(139)	772
Other payables	-	3,801
	<u>218,083</u>	<u>157,657</u>

NOTE 10. UNEARNED INCOME

	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT		
Grant funding	834,407	1,722,169
Strategic plan initiative	620,503	-
Other	3,259	6,430
	<u>1,458,169</u>	<u>1,728,599</u>

NOTE 11. PROVISIONS

Analysis of total provision

	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave
<b>Provisions</b>		
Opening balance as at 1/1/2021	26,315	17,557
Net movement in balance	14,233	1,864
Balance as at 31/12/2021	<u>40,548</u>	<u>19,421</u>
Current	40,548	19,421
	<u>40,548</u>	<u>19,421</u>

NOTE 12. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

		2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash as per:			
Statement of financial position	4	1,612,333	2,194,277
Statement of cash flows		<u>1,612,333</u>	<u>2,194,277</u>



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>NOTE 12. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION (continued)</b>		
<i>Reconciliation of surplus for the year to net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</i>		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>132,846</u>	<u>(1,106,120)</u>
<i>Adjustments for non-cash items</i>		
Depreciation	83,267	88,094
Fair value adjustments	(211,242)	211,242
<i>Movements in assets and liabilities</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(212,698)	379,366
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments/other assets	(171,788)	21,673
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and borrowings	60,427	25,795
Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	(270,432)	1,728,600
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	16,095	(8,734)
	<u>(573,525)</u>	<u>1,339,916</u>

**NOTE 13. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE DATE**

The coronavirus remains first and foremost a major public health issue, but has also had a very significant effect on the Australian economy. There remains a level of uncertainty about the near-term outlook for the Australian economy and how that it impact on the activities of RSL Australia. Directors are conscious of this uncertainty and continue to take the appropriate steps to ensure the continued operation and viability of the company in supporting the veteran community.

The directors will continue to monitor the impact of the prevailing economic conditions to determine potential impairment of company assets.

There have been no events subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment in the financial statements.

**NOTE 14. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

There are no contingent liabilities or assets as at 31 December 2021 which require disclosure in the financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**NOTE 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During the financial year the three independent directors received remuneration at rates set by the Board. The other directors did not receive any remuneration.

Reimbursement of travel expenses is made for the National President and the independent directors.

Other transactions with related parties are on terms no more or no less favourable than any normal commercial arrangement.

**NOTE 16. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

The Board control the capital of the company to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund operations. The Board is responsible for the overall risk management strategy.

The company's capital consists of financial liabilities, supported by financial assets.

The Board effectively manage the company's capital by assessing the company's financial risks and responding to changes in these risks and in the market.

The company does not have a formal policy on capital management.

**NOTE 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 outstanding obligations of the company. At 31 December 2021 the number of members was 7 (2020: 7).

**NOTE 18. COMMITMENTS OF CAPITAL**

At the reporting date the company has no commitments of capital.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**NOTE 19. COMPANY DETAILS**

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

Unit 137  
81 Constitution Avenue  
Campbell ACT 2612.



AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd  
ACN: 088 095 354

PO Box 776, Mitchell ACT 2911

Telephone: 02 6170 6870

Email: [admin@accountability-act.com.au](mailto:admin@accountability-act.com.au)  
[www.accountability-act.com.au](http://www.accountability-act.com.au)

Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETURNED &  
SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Declaration by Responsible Person.

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

- a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited 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 my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the *Code*.

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

### Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

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

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors' either intends to liquidate The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's financial reporting process.

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

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

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

I also:

- 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 my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited 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 Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including when considered necessary any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

### AccountAbility



**Anthony Wilson**  
**Registered Company Auditor**  
**Canberra, ACT**  
**30 March 2022**

# RSL AUSTRALIA

## NATIONAL OFFICERS

National President  
Deputy National President  
Company Secretary

Greg Melick AO RFD SC  
John King  
Phil Winter AM CSC ADC

## STATE PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory Branch President  
New South Wales Branch President  
Queensland Branch President

South Australia Branch President  
Tasmania Branch President

Victoria Branch President  
Western Australia Branch President

John King  
Ray James OAM  
Tony Ferris [until November]  
Stephen Day DSC AM [from November]  
Cheryl Cates  
Robert Dick [until June]  
Barry Quinn [from June]  
Robert Webster OAM  
Peter Aspinall AM [until November]  
Duncan Anderson - Acting [from November]

## NATIONAL BOARD



National President  
**Greg Melick AO RFD SC**



Deputy National President  
Member Director ACT Branch  
**John King**



Chairman  
(Non-Member Director)  
**David Nathan**



Member Director NSW Branch  
**Ray James OAM**



Member Directors QLD Branch  
**Tony Ferris/Jamie Whitehead**



Member Director SA Branch  
**Cheryl Cates**



Member Directors TAS Branch  
**Robert Dick/Barry Quinn**



Member Director VIC Branch  
**Robert Webster OAM**



Member Directors WA Branch  
**Peter Aspinall AM/Duncan Anderson**



Non-Member Director  
**Madeline Dermatossian**



Non-Member Director  
**Maria Storti**

## RSL AMBASSADORS

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*“In 2021 two RSL Australia Ambassadors were appointed to represent the views of younger veterans and serving personnel and to be a point of contact for that potential membership demographic.*

*It has been pleasing to see the positive influence of the RSL Australia Ambassadors who also liaise with other ex-service organisations to identify opportunities to collaborate and gain a wider perspective on veterans’ issues, and work within communities to inspire and encourage younger members to join the League.*

*The Ambassadors provide a quarterly report on their activities to the RSL National Board.”*

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**CHERISA (CJ) PEARCE**

Cherisa commenced her Army career at the Royal Military College in July 1994 and graduated into the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, but later transferred to the Royal Australian Corps of Transport.

Cherisa’s postings included 1st Recruit Training Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, HQ 9 Brigade, and 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion. She also conducted three operational deployments to East Timor in 1999, 2000 and 2006-07.

Cherisa recognises her posting to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion as a Platoon Commander and Officer Commanding as a highlight of her career as well as finishing her career where it started, at the Royal Military College as Second in Command.

Cherisa has been out of the Australian Defence Force for five years and is passionate about making a difference in the veteran community. Being the daughter of a Vietnam veteran, along with having a current serving partner and being a mum to two independent teenage daughters, Cherisa has an excellent understanding of the issues facing the veteran community and their families.

Cherisa is now enjoying new opportunities at the southern end of the Gold Coast. She is a Board Member of the Currumbin Palm Beach RSL Sub-Branch and is an active member of the wider community. During her free time, Cherisa enjoys the beach for a surf and you can find her there during rain, hail or shine!



**PETE RUDLAND**

Pete Rudland joined the Australian Defence Force on 21 March 1989. He spent 28 years in the Royal Australian Infantry and served in 3RAR, 4RAR, The Parachute Training School, SASR and 2CDO Regiment.

Pete was deployed to Cambodia as part of UNTAC in 1993, the Iraq bombing campaign in 1997 with SASR, East Timor in 2001 as part of the 4RAR (CDO) deployment, Iraq in 2003 as part of an exchange with British forces, Timor Lesté in 2006 with 4RAR (CDO) and Afghanistan in 2010 as part of ACOY 2CDO.

On 21 June 2010, three Australian Commandos and a US soldier were killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan. Pete was wounded in the crash and received multiple muscle-skeletal injuries and a frontal lobe bleed. As a result of the injuries, Pete was discharged from the Army on 08 November 2017.

Since being wounded Pete started a company counselling soldiers, police and emergency services for PTS, depression and associated illnesses. He also offers personal training as part of a holistic rehabilitation process.

Pete has competed in three Invictus Games: Orlando, Florida, USA; Toronto, Canada (at which he was Co-Captain); and, Sydney, Australia. He is a huge supporter of the ADF and RSL adaptive sports programs.

Pete lives on a small property with his family at Tweed Heads NSW and is currently training to compete in the Busselton WA Ironman.

# NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Chief Executive Officer  
 National Secretariat Support Manager  
 National Manager Accounts & Corporate Finance  
 National Support Manager  
 Secretariat Executive Officer  
 National Coordinator RSL Veterans' Employment Program  
 Operational Support Officer  
 Mental Health Training Coordinator  
 National Manager RSL Veterans' Employment Program  
 National Communications & Marketing Advisor

Phil Winter AM CSC ADC  
 Jan Ormerod  
 Kristy Howarth  
 Renee Deger [until April]  
 Fiona Engeler [from April]  
 Xanthe Moore [from April]  
 Fiona MacDonald [from July]  
 Cyndy Jakobi [from July]  
 Suzie Michaelis [from Sept]  
 Jodine La Pere

# REGISTERED OFFICES

<b>National Office</b>	<b>Postal Address</b>
RSL Australia 137/81 Constitution Ave CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Phone: (02) 6280 4079	PO Box 30 CAMPBELL ACT 2612

# STATE BRANCHES

<p><b>ACT</b> 137/81 Constitution Ave CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Postal: PO Box 30 CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Phone: (02) 9161 7690</p>	<p><b>NSW</b> ANZAC House Suite 11.02, Level 11 175 Pitt Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9264 8188</p>	<p><b>QLD</b> 283 St Paul's Terrace FORTITUDE VALLEY Postal: PO Box 629 SPRINGHILL QLD 4004 Phone: (07) 3634 9444</p>
<p><b>SA</b> ANZAC House Torrens Training Depot Victoria Drive ADELAIDE SA 5000 Phone: (08) 8100 7300</p>	<p><b>TAS</b> 206 New Town Rd NEW TOWN TAS 7008 Postal: PO Box 147 NEW TOWN TAS 7008 Phone: (03) 6242 8900</p>	<p><b>VIC</b> ANZAC House 4 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 Phone: (03) 9655 5555</p>
<p><b>WA</b> Level 4, 28 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 Postal: PO Box Z5424 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6831 Phone: (08) 9287 3799</p>		

# MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

as at 31 December 2021



<b>ACT/OVERSEAS</b>	Members: 640 Affiliates: 92 <b>Total Members: 732</b>	<b>NSW</b>	Members: 21,637 Affiliates: 2,765 <b>Total Members: 24,402</b>
<b>QLD</b>	Members: 33,441 Affiliates: 0 <b>Total Members: 33,401</b>	<b>SA/NT</b>	Members: 3,770 Affiliates: 4,770 <b>Total Members: 8,540</b>
<b>TAS</b>	Members: 1,920 Affiliates: 1,353 <b>Total Members: 3,273</b>	<b>VIC</b>	Members: 23,858 Affiliates: 43,291 <b>Total Members: 67,149</b>
<b>WA</b>	Members: 7,119 Affiliates: 1,941 <b>Total Members: 9,060</b>		

*“Retention is important – members’ expectations need to be understood and met: they all need a sense of belonging and pride in their involvement.”*

# ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS

	RSL Membership		Womens' Auxiliary/Auxiliary	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
2021	146,597	1,137	3,455	224
2020	150,205	1,154	3,672	229
2019	158,873	1,183	3,629	238
2018	161,849	1,192	4,080	243
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

## RSL NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

LTCOL W K Bolton CBE VD  
 Sir Gilbert Dyett CMG  
 Sir Eric Millhouse KC  
 Sir George Holland KBE MM  
 Sir Arthur Lee KBE MC  
 Sir William Hall KBE DSO MC  
 Sir William Keys AC OBE MC  
 Brigadier Alf Garland AM (RL)  
 Major General William Brian Digger James AC MBE MC (Retd)  
 Major General Peter R Phillips AO MC (Retd)  
 Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd)  
 Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)  
 Mr Rod White AM RFD  
 Mr Robert Dick  
 Major General Aziz Gregory Melick AO RFD SC (Retd)

1916 – 1919  
 1919 – 1946  
 1946 – 1950  
 1950 – 1960  
 1960 - 1974  
 1974 - 1978  
 1978 - 1988  
 1988 - 1993  
 1993 - 1997  
 1997 – 2003  
 2003 - 2009  
 2009 – 2016  
 [Jul] 2016 – [Mar] 2017  
 [Mar] 2017 - [Jul] 2018  
 2019 - current

## RSL NATIONAL SECRETARIES/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

E C Evans	National Secretary	1916 – 1917
W Burns	National Secretary	1917 – 1918
W Henderson	National Secretary	1918 – 1919
A P K Morris	National Secretary	1919 - 1920
W J Henderson	National Secretary	1920 - 1921
J H Donnelly	National Secretary	1921
F E Forrest MC	National Secretary	1921 - 1924
E J Dibdin DSO VD	National Secretary	1924 - 1929
J Webster CMG	National Secretary	1929 - 1935
E V Raymont	National Secretary	1935 - 1945
James Clarence Neagle CBE	National Secretary	1945 - 1956
K V Newman	National Secretary	1956 - 1961
A J William Keys OBE MC	National Secretary	1961 - 1978
K G Shultz	National Secretary	1978 - 1981
Peter R Young	National Secretary	1981 - 1983
K D A Medbury OBE	National Secretary	1983
Ian J Gollings AM	National Secretary	1983 - 1991
June M Healy OAM	National Secretary	1991
Robert G Ray MBE	National Secretary	1991 - 1992
June M Healy OAM	National Secretary	1992 - 1994
Derek J Robson AM	National Secretary	1995 – [Feb] 2013
John King	National Secretary	2013 – 2014
Samantha Jackman	Chief Executive Officer	Apr 2015 - 2016
Georgina (Georgie) Macris	Chief Executive Officer	2017 - 2018
Kim Henshaw	General Manager	May 2019 - [Sept] 2020
Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC	Chief Executive Officer	2021 - current



**RSL**  
Australia



*The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.*

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