

Returned & Services League of Australia (South Australia Branch) Inc.



105th Annual Sub-Branch Conference

Held at

West Croydon Kilkenny RSL Sub-Branch
19 Rosetta Street
West Croydon SA 5008

on

Saturday 24th June 2023

MINUTES

Present: Annex A

Apologies: Annex B

In Attendance: Annex C

Opening

Welcome

The State President, Mrs Cheryl Cates, opened the Conference and welcomed Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs South Australia, Mr Adrian Pederick MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mrs Janice Silby, deputy Commissioner SA, Department of Veterans Affairs and representing Mr Don Spinks AM, Repatriation Commissioner, Mr Phil Winter AM CSC ADC RSL National Chief Executive Officer and representing Mr Greg Melick AO RFD SC RSL National President, Lieutenant Commander Gary Burns, Executive Officer of HMAS Encounter and representing Commander Emma McDonald-Kerr RAN ADC Naval Commander SA, BRIG Graham Goodwin APM CSC, Commander 9th Brigade, Group Captain David Banham representing Air Commodore Adrian Maso AM, Commander Air Warfare Centre, Dr Robert Webster OAM President RSL Victoria State Branch and Chair of the National Veterans' Advisory Council, Mr Bill Denny AM BM, RSL SA Ambassador, Mr Ian Smith, RZL Anzac Day Committee Chair and Co-Chair Aboriginal Veterans SA, Mr Jock Statton AM, RSL SA Past President, RSL SA Board Members, Conference Delegates and Regional Advisers.

The State President also thanked the President of West Croydon Kilkenny RSL Sub-Branch Mr Jeffrey Roberts, Mrs Christine Cundell, Mr Barry Cundell, Mr Mark McLaren for hosting the Conference and along with the Australian Army Band for providing incidental music, the Vice Regal Salute and Bugler on the day.

Acknowledgement to Country

The State President acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land.

Loyal Message

The following Message of Loyalty would be conveyed by the Delegation to His Majesty, King Charles III as read by the State President:

"The State President and the Delegates assembled at the 105th Annual Sub-Branch Conference in Adelaide and representing the Life, Service and Affiliate Members of the Returned & Services League of South Australia, Northern Territory and Broken Hill, wish to affirm to His Most Gracious Majesty, King Charles III, Sovereign of Australia, their continued loyalty and allegiance.

We congratulate His Majesty on his recent Coronation, and we pray for his continued enjoyment of life and happiness."

Pledge of Allegiance to the League

"I (name of member) do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia."

Ceremony of Remembrance

At the instigation of the State President, Delegates and guests observed a minute's silence during the Ceremony of Remembrance.

Opening Address

The Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia opened the 105th Annual Sub-Branch Conference.

In her address, Her Excellency stated that it was a great pleasure to join with us and to be able to open the 105th South Australian Annual Sub-Branch Conference. She was pleased to welcome RSL representatives from across South Australia and to be a patron of an organisation which plays such a significant role in supporting serving and ex-serving veterans and their families. Since her attendance at the 2022 Conference, she and her husband Rod have continued their support of the veteran community, experiencing first hand its deep connections throughout South Australia. They had both attended their second Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorative services, and to see veterans marching with their mates and family members proudly wearing the medals of their family members was profoundly moving. She was heartened by the Anzac Youth Vigil and the respect with which young South Australians honoured the service and sacrifice of our armed forces. Her Excellency has had the good fortune of being reminded regularly of the service and sacrifice so many South Australian have made to protect the nations and its way of life. She is also reminded of the debt our society owes to our servicemen and women, our veterans and of the fantastic work the RSL does every day to provide opportunities for commemoration, advocacy and practical support. In February, Her Excellency had the privilege to open the new RSL Care Facility, 'Romani' at Murray Bridge and thanked RSL Care SA for providing veterans with a variety of residential aged care, retirement living and affordable housing options to suit their needs.

Her Excellency thanked the State President and the Board for their vision and dedication to the organisation along with retiring Board Members in Trevor Whitelaw and Wayne Langford for their service and wished them all the best for the future.

Her Excellency thanked the Presidents, committees and members of each South Australian Sub-Branched as they work to meet the challenges currently facing the RSL, such as declining membership numbers in smaller Sub-Branched and country communities.

As patron, she is invested in the future direction and orientation of the RSL and wished us a productive conference and AGM, and looked forward to her continued involvement with the RSL as it rises to the challenges and opportunities of our modern society.

A vote of thanks to Her Excellency was extended by the State President and carried with acclamation. The State President also thanked Her Excellency for the friendship, respect and relationship that they had given to each other since taking up her role as Governor and patron.

Anzac of the Year Award. Her Excellency presented the 2023 Anzac of the Year Award to Mr Bill Hignett OAM. This Award is presented 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 compassionated manner. The citation for Mr Hignett read:

"Mr James William Hignett OAM of South Australia was awarded Anzac of the Year 2023 in recognition of his dedication and selfless, compassionate service as a respected contributor and advisor to many communities/groups including AVSA and the Plympton Veterans' Centre"

Mr Hignett responded after accepting his Award and this was received with acclamation.

Due to other commitments, Her Excellency departed the Conference.

Conference Addresses

The Honourable Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs SA addressed the Conference by thanking us for the opportunity to address the Delegates and he was honoured to be here again this year for his second Annual Conference. He stated it was a privilege to be the Minister for Veterans Affairs in South Australia and to attend important events and meetings that recognise and support our veteran community. Over the last 12 months, he has had the pleasure of visiting a number of the Sub-Branched represented and through these visits, has learnt a great deal about the diverse, but important work being done by the RSL in South Australia. He was pleased to see many Sub-Branched continuing to

adapt the services and offerings available to veterans and their families in the needs of each generation of changes. He could see that the RSL works to ensure that veterans across Australia are able to accept advocacy, welfare and wellbeing services across all of the state. He was grateful to have the opportunity to thank those who support our veterans and their families through camaraderie and delivery of services in RSL Sub-Branched across all of South Australia. He encouraged all to keep evolving and continuing to adapt to the needs of the ever changing community needs across all of South Australia. The Veterans Affairs portfolio continues to be a priority for the South Australian Government. This has been demonstrated most recently by the State Government's commitment of \$2.075m over the forward estimates for programs to benefit veterans and their families supporting those veterans. The Government was taking a collaborative approach to program development, forging and fostering relationships with organisations and service providers to deliver relevant and meaningful programs and to support the South Australians involving the veterans community and he remains committed to continue to focus on the issues faced by veterans and their families. Together with Veterans SA he will continually work towards achieving the portfolios, the aims and outcomes involving promoting inclusion, in parant community, honouring service and data informed policy and best practice. In the last twelve months he had seen some great outcomes for veterans and their families including:

- The inclusion of an identifier tick box on education administration forms to ensure children of veterans and ADF members receive adequate support when they change schools coming from within South Australia or interstate.
- The successful delivery of the Adelaide pilot, 'Cowork Coplay' Program to support partners of ADF veterans who pursue meaningful employment activities and build community connections.
- Continue to support the commemorative activities through the RSL annual grant, the Anzac Day Commemoration Fund and Veterans SA.
- The announcement of the 19th October 2023 as War Widow's Day in South Australia.
- The current focus which is underway is the Veterans SA Career and Business Mentoring Program.
- A new calendar of engagement activities and continued regular engagement with other states and federal agencies and ex-service organisations.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide will be conducting hearings in Adelaide commencing on the 17th July and Veterans SA have been working very closely with the Royal Commission response unit and other state government agencies to provide information requested by that Commission. This may be a difficult period and confronting time for members of the veteran community, and he urged us to look out and check with vulnerable individuals and refer them to specialised support services as required throughout the process.

He also looked forward to working with the RSL over the next 12 months to achieve positive and lasting outcomes that will improve the lives of current, former and future serving members and their families. It was a great privilege to be the Minister and be here today and he acknowledged and thanked everybody for their advice, service and commitment over the last twelve months and was looking forward to a long lasting relationship with the veterans community and their families.

He wished us well for the remainder of the Conference as we continue to support our veterans and the work that is done for those who wear our nations uniforms.

Shadow Minister, Adrian Pederick MP acknowledged Minister Brock's own military service and he was very privileged to be at a veterans event at Parliament House where Minister Brock was finally awarded his service medals.

A vote of thanks to the Minister was moved by the Mr Trevor Whitelaw OAM, State Vice President and Chair of the Board and carried with acclamation.

Mrs Janice Silby, representing Mr Don Spinks AM, Repatriation Commissioner. Before Mrs Silby addressed the Conference, the State President stated that we were aware that Mr Spinks was stepping down from the role of Repatriation Commissioner and asked that she pass on from us all here in South Australia all the very best to Don for his future endeavours and thank him for a stella job that he has done throughout his time in the role. Mrs Silby was pleased to be with us once again this year and paid her respects to all current servicing members and those who had served and thanked them for their service. She mentioned that the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide will be here for hearings from the 17th July with a potential 10 day hearing block and it is expected that a number of DVA witnesses will give evidence, alongside a number of local veterans, their family representatives and advocates. The Commission will continue to accept submissions until the 13th October of this year, and she encouraged all veterans and families to make submissions. She reminded that those making submissions may elect to remain anonymous in the process and there are

safeguards in place to protect anyone sharing their story. It can be a difficult time and she also reminded that there is support available through DVA and Open Arms Channels if the Royal Commission does stir any difficult feelings whether you are presenting or not. SafeZone, which is the anonymous support line may also be contacted along with First Nations to support Aboriginal members. With these supports in mind, we consider the significant work being completed in the mental health space and that all veterans with at least one day of full time service will receive free mental health care for life without needing to link their condition to their service. DVA has arrangements in place with all States and Territories for eligible clients to access mental health services as required, which has grown significantly. Within DVA, they now have a number of peer workers that provide very valuable support in the mental health space. The Royal Commission Interim Report has really led the work that is being done in DVA at the moment. There were 13 recommendations handed down in this report and they are all things that they are looking at and in particular, with the claims backlog that she was sure that everybody was aware of. As of the 31st May this year there were 39,974 claims being processed and 34,796 claims were waiting to be allocated for processing, this included 5,098 claims that were lodged in May and about a quarter of those awaiting allocation were lodged in the past 90 days. Interestingly there is a current survey which is done every year to look at their client service and one of the things that has come out this year is of the number of people who have indicated that they are putting in claims earlier and when they weren't anticipating to, because of a rise in the cost of living, and this may put additional pressure on the Department and the advocates who work tirelessly in this space. The backlog remains substantial by any definition however, their efforts are making a difference with their ongoing recruitment efforts seek employees that are able to maintain the work output with a number of their decisions significantly improving. Between 1st July 2022 and 31st May 2023, they had increased their output by an impressive 39% which accounts for 115,474 decisions which is a significant turnaround and with the tireless efforts of their staff and the embracing of new efficiencies that they have been able to achieve such a positive impact. The Department remains committed to veterans and their families and she was constantly amazed by the connection that people have. There are a number of people who have served and many people who work for the Department who family members who have or are still serving. She sees every day the interaction that people have with our veterans and recently she was able to take 20 of her staff out to Edinburgh to listen to serving members experience and knowledge of DVA and their concerns about the time when they are due to transition, and this was a very meaningful interaction for those staff who attended and would endeavour to create those opportunities for people.

In addressing the remaining 12 recommendations of the Interim Report, the Department recently completed a nationwide consultative process regarding proposed Legislative Reform. You or someone you know may have been invited to a feedback session which was hosted by the DVA Legislative Reform Task Force and was strongly supported by the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon Matt Keogh MP. This was also amplified by the Minister personally attending a large number of the round table and forum discussions. It was no surprise that the consultation process confirmed the need for simplification and harmonisation of our veterans legislation, which by any means is very complicated. The consultation process ended on the 12th May and the task force is now working to analyse and summarise the findings. The task force will report back to Minister Keogh and the community on the findings of the consultation process however, the Department had not been advised of the timeframe for that process. More information on the reforms and the consultation can be found on the DVA website. In addition to the Minister's passion for reform, the Department is fortunate to have a new Secretary in Alison Frame who will be driving the recommendations of the interim report. The Secretary will be in Adelaide at the time of the Royal Commission hearings in July. She has taken on a significant task and Mrs Silby advised that her efforts are being diverted to meet the Commissioner's request.

On the topic of staff changes, she wanted to recognise the Repatriation Commissioner, Mr Don Spinks and that he would be leaving the Department with his last day being on 4th July. Many here know Don and she would like to think of his career as tactical and disciplined and he was always keeping others at the forefront and focussing on reducing impact and harm. Don has been very committed to the Royal Commission and supportive of the Deputy Commissioners who report directly to him and the support he has shown to the Ex-Service Community as a whole.

Mrs Silby thanked the Delegates for having her and could not express enough gratitude for the work that is done by the people in the room and the RSL. The second half of 2023 is going to be a very busy time with the 50th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War on Friday 18th August. The RSL is a very important part of the support that is provided to veterans and their families and wished us well.

A vote of thanks to Mrs Silby was moved by Mr Wayne Langford OAM, State Board Member and carried with acclamation.

Address by Dr Robert Webster OAM, President of RSL Victoria and Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs Committee. Dr Webster commenced with an update from the 104th Conference Minutes which had taken place. The one that was looked at last year that was causing some grief and still causing some grief is the issue of the inconsistency of some of the payments that government makes for services to veterans compared to services in other portfolios. A classic here has been and they had seen it in Victoria, and it has been picked up across the other States and come through to NVAC, that psychiatrists across the board, under the repatriation scheme, get a 140% of the prescribed fee, but if you are working for NDIS it is 160% and the kicker for NDIS is that they can also charge a gap fee and are doing so. There has been some discussion and this week there was a paper presented to the Secretary and the Secretary of Bill Shortens Department to cover the same issue and there appears to have been some progress on getting those two things aligned. Of course it means that psychiatrists downplay treating veterans if they can get 160% from treating someone else and that is one of last years' we continue to follow. Another from last year we talked about was Mind Medicine Australia and their psychotics and the position of the National Board at that stage, is that we were not going to touch it until TGA made some rulings on it. TGA have recently made some rulings on it in some parts, and they will now be prescribing 'magic mushrooms' with effect 1st July and those approvals are now in place. Another continuing saga from 2022 are the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan and earlier in the year, the National Board approved the appointment of Ian Gardiner as a medical adviser to NVAC and he provided to him with the most recent American study on burn pits dated 6th June this year and they would be looking at that at the next NVAC meeting. They are continuing to follow up those things that were raised in 2022. NVAC is made up of representatives of each of the States and Bill Hignett is currently SA's representative. NVAC considers some of the issues that are facing Advocates, both Compensation and Welfare across the country. One of the issues that has exercised their minds this year has been ATDP and as many are aware, DVA took this back in house a few years ago and there has been a bit of a rocky relationship with ATDP, the training development program for Compensation and Wellness Advocates and there are some real issues that they are trying to sort out through that. The one that is really worrying is the fact that just under 200 of those 700 on the Advocates registers across the country are likely to be struck off with effect 1st July 2023 for failure to undertake CPD from 140 identified and another 50 under investigation. That will really give us some grief across the network because it means that an Advocate cannot work as an Advocate if they don't have that registration. Following it up, some states are very good, but it was raised at the ESO Round Table in Veterans Suicide in Sydney a couple of weeks ago and it really worried a number of people. The other issue regarding Advocates of course is the ageing Advocate workforce, in particular the volunteers and over the next couple of years, we will see a lot more of those volunteers, largely Vietnam Veterans, calling it quits in order to move on. This is an issue, and it will accelerate from volunteer Advocates to paid Advocates across the network Australia wide and something of which is attention is being paid to. From ATDP we get the difficulties of the RPL process of where they have gone through in Victoria, but also common in other states, where a solicitor, semi-retired, wants to become an Advocate and the first thing he has to do is learn to take case notes. If a solicitor hasn't been doing that with a 30 year legal career and why they don't get RPL for it, is still to be worked out.

Further and in relation to burn pits, they are continuing to monitor and out of the nine presumptive diseases that the Americans have adopted, eight of them are covered in Australian SOP's and unfortunately, unlike the Americans in one document, ours are scattered through a whole range of SOP's. They are having continuing discussion/debate with the RMA as to how they might address that however, it seems that the RMA are a little resistant as they like to keep it in the boxes as per illnesses etc.

Clearly, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has been an issue that has come to the NVAC a number of times during the year and of course NVAC has been part of the ESO Forums that have been run. There was an ESO Forum run in Canberra in November and there were some 40 organisations in the room at that and just recently in Sydney another was run which was well attended and both of those reports are on the RSL Australia website. In good summary of the days, in both those ESO Forums, the Commissioner's participated and remained and spoke with people attending during the breaks. One of the topics that was identified at the Forum in May was the issue of suicide of elderly veterans in Aged Care, because all of a sudden they have lost their veteran community around them and once they become institutionalised, it is much more difficult for them to participate in their community. This is one of the hidden areas of suicide that the Commissioner's are thinking about.

The Veterans Legislation that was spoken about earlier, NVAC has had some input however, left it largely to a state basis, but making sure that everybody was involved.

There is a member in Victoria which has submitted a Ministerial in regard to the inconsistency with the application of the Veteran Covenant. Members of 1950s era Nasho's stayed on as long term reservists with one having a veteran covenant

pin with a piece of paper and another with exactly the same service in the same unit doesn't have anything. This is an interesting issue that a number of people have taken up. Some have taken up through their local members. On a related note, the Victorian Government with effect from the 1st of June will issue a veterans card and all you have to have is a service number which will be electronic and will go on your phone. This will give them a free fishing licence, a discount on motor registration fees and other minor advantages. Dr Webster thanked the Delegates for having him.

A vote of thanks to Dr Webster OAM was moved by Mr John O'Grady, State Board Member and carried with acclamation.

The Conference adjourned for morning tea.

The State President reconvened the Conference commencing with:

Address by RSL National CEO Mr Phil Winter AM CSC ADC. The National CEO, on behalf of the National President, addressed the Conference giving an update of where National was going and what it has been up to.

Phil extended his best wishes to the conference on behalf of the National President who was currently overseas and apologised for not being here. The National CEO also conveyed on behalf of the National President his sincere thank you to all the volunteers for all the work at the RSL SA Branch, to acknowledge the efforts of Cheryl Cates and the Board, particularly those members who are leaving the Board.

Phil had been the CEO of the National Office just on two and a half years after some 30 years regular service and continuing as a Reservist and along with service with the AFP. It has been great to take up the challenge of working with RSL National and the three key things they do is run the National Office, support the RSL Australia Board and most importantly, get an alignment across the CEO network and the Federated model of what the RSL doing is aligning that group. With some work already done, there is a better alignment across the League. It is not completely there yet and would talk about some of the challenges. Policy issues, voice of the RSL are all starting to emerge on the website for daily updates, along with input on social media and encouraged all to have a look at these. The Federated model is our friend and also a challenge in aligning all the Sub-Branches through the State Branch up to National.

In regard to the importance of communication, we get it in Canberra in that we are trying to do a lot in getting into the ears of the Minister and Federal Government departments and particularly their alignment with Defence. Although he was enjoying his job, he is not happy where they are at as there is a lot to do in the League. One of the important things when you have a Federated model is to listen to the membership from bottom up, but also have a top down approach and we do have to have some discipline in the League and also a shared experience. Sometimes we don't like what we hear but we actually have to sing to the one tune and that is one of the things with the Board with 150,000 odd members and over 1,300 Sub-Branches across the nation, and pulling that message together is their challenge. To do that there is more sub-committees: NVAC, Commemorations and Media Communications Committee and the challenges from this Branch is to get into that group, but there is not enough people, and we are looking for more from South Australia to get onto those committees and drive the RSL voice. The NVAC Committee is the engine room of that policy and if the State Branch isn't feeding into that with solid policy, we listen and we condense and distil it, then we are not achieving the voice of the League. It is not just Advocacy.

Some of the things we have done from National is if you look at the website you will see that we have gone hard to DVA with Legislative Reform, gone hard on pre-Budget and the Budget and post Budget papers. For any quality papers to be written we actually have to pay for that to happen and have people within Canberra and the State Branches to write these quality papers that the Ministers are going to read. This is a dilemma for our Federated model, in how much do we pay to get staff in to write these papers to be there 9 to 5 versus a volunteer group. It has been really interesting to see the Minister take more interest in what is being written if it is a quality product.

With the Royal Commission, we have had an RSL representative in the room every day there has been someone there and the RSL has really won the hearts of the Royal Commissioners. We have a younger Afghanistan veteran who can actually resonate with the group and also have a good understanding of the older veteran group. To have that person in the room to win the confidence of the Royal Commissioners has done the RSL wonders, and they would see that process right through to the end of the hearings. By having that RSL person able to talk to anyone there and all those other groups that attend the hearings with some anxiety, it has actually won the RSL some kudos and soft leadership into the ex-service organisation. Peter Rudland, an Afghanistan veteran has been that person and he would be delighted to take

any advice for the hearings in Adelaide. Phil stated that the State Branch must have representation at the Adelaide hearings and to make themselves known as they want to hear from us, in particular, Commissioner Kaldos. RSL Australia gave out a very quick response to the product of the Interim Report and will do the same as the Royal Commission comes to an end.

The National President has been very strong on holding the government to account and on the budget for any outcomes from the Royal Commission.

It was mentioned earlier that the National ESO Forum was held in Canberra in November 2022 and in Sydney in May and Phil encouraged all to have a read of the report that has come out. It is also on the RSL A website. Out of that Royal Commission, there will be a peak body in the ESO sector which will either be implemented around us or need to be involved in it. We want to be involved and have the leadership role, but also able to collaborate. Two points from the report from the ESO Forum are: how they are going to implement the Royal Commission and what might affect the veterans sector peak body might look like going forward. RSL Australia put their hand up to run the two ESO Forums and there will be another one in September with soft leadership, who runs the Forum and produces the paperwork to run it with other ESO's in the room. To date, they have proven to be successful.

Phil spoke about the Veterans Employment Program and that we are in the business in the RSL of keeping that service going. The other States can do that in other ways however, we are quite determined to keep it going for South Australia. The National President spoke with the Minister and was very strong that although the grant had come to an end, we needed 12 months of funding for enough to keep the lights on. To enable this to continue, we need to find a smart way, bequests, philanthropists and other ways to generate some funds to keep the service. It has proven to be a winner across the League in helping veterans transition. It is not just the program, it has been the transition seminars as well.

There is a new app for smartphones, the Veterans Catalogue and he asked of who had the app on their phone. There were only two in the room which wasn't a very good start. They wanted everyone to have this app to show that where veterans are transitioning, they put in the postcode, what does it actually show, services available to them in that area. We haven't been able to get the League to embrace it and we have to be a little more tech savvy and get amongst the technology. They have learnt a lot this year with the pilot project, but it still needs to be fixed.

We need to have engagement with the ADF and the current serving group. RSL National would like to reengage the Defence Committee and get regenerated. We live in a geostrategic world at the moment with everything happening in the Pacific, lessons learnt from Ukraine, new technology, cyber, drones and AI. Where is the RSL in this space with the National Security dialogue, again there is a whole bunch of thinking that can be drawn on and encouraged us to have somebody nominated to that Committee. The RSL is actually silent on the Defence Treaty and AUKUS. Over the last 107 years, the RSL has done a lot of thinking about helping government and others shape our Defence department. If you look at our motto "The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance", that is what we are all about.

One of the things that RSL National are seeing from NSW is the full new model with automatic membership and how we transfer that interstate when our veterans move. RSL National would have a look at that and see if the NSW trial is successful. His problem with it at the moment is that you must be able to retain the members.

Commemoration post COVID is now back to normal in all States and this year is the 50th Anniversary of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and the 18th August will see a service conducted in Canberra with a Vigil being conducted on the 6th of August, which is being run by many of the Vietnam Veterans. Details of which will be on the RSL Australia website.

Phil's other challenge to all the State Branches is ANZAC Day. This is a day of opportunity with the Anzac Appeal and Poppy Appeal and coordinated fundraising of which the RSL is not good at, even though we have a national fundraising committee. Other organisations have test days and McGrath Foundation days and bring in copious amounts of money, but how do we get this into the RSL. We actually need to get into the modern age and need to get and balance commemoration with fundraising which in the end would assist in funding the Veterans Employment Program and other programs.

Phil had much more he could have said however and gave some of the things that needed to be fixed in: Advocacy system, align our fundraising, our messaging and communications. We don't really have a good value proposition at the

moment amongst serving veterans, unless there is something that they can see their service given and National was doing work on that. We have international Sub-Branches in Washington, Port Moresby and the Philippines and where things we have learnt within the five eyes community can come back to us and would like to see a better way of engaging with that. Some great work is being done at the moment with veterans homelessness and looking after our older cohorts, there is so much to be done.

We are an extremely powerful organisation when we are all working together, the voice is big. When we don't work together, we look like brown cows, and he urged us to cooperate. He thanked David Grenvold and Keith Harrison for their efforts, and it had been good working with them. He requested collaboration and loved coming to South Australia and thanked Cheryl Cates for being a great friend and colleague.

A vote of thanks to the National CEO was moved by the State President and carried with acclamation.

The State President thanked the guest speakers in giving up their valuable time to address the Conference.

The CEO also thanked the National CEO for his words and as he outlined, we are a Federated model and has been our friend on many occasions however, at times it does work against us. He does work closely with the National CEO and sometimes when he has to complain about something he picks up the phone to Phil. Phil is doing a fantastic job in getting that communication and collaboration between the States and there are some massive challenges from State to State and he would touch on that later. Phil is in the hot seat and doing a really good job.

RSL SA 2023 State Elections

As Returning Officer, the CEO turned the audience's attention to the 2023 election process and for the first time since 2016 we were required to run an election. We doubled down and we not only ran an election, but we did it via electronic format for the first time. There were a lot of learnings along the way, and we think there are some improvements to be made with our election process and given the set of circumstances, we think we conducted it pretty well. As per the circulated Bulletin of last night announced that David Peterson would be, at the conclusion of this Conference, will be our incoming President. He also announced the new Board Members and introduced the State Board that at the rise of this Conference will assume their roles on the State Board:

- John O'Grady, who was already an incumbent with 12 months left of his term
- Meredith Burgess, elected and had filled a casual vacancy since October 2022
- Greg Crotty, re-elected after completing a three year term
- Rod Murray newly elected
- Jonathan Duncan newly elected
- Lance Bagster newly elected

This was received with acclamation.

At the same time, while the new Board Members were welcomed, he also farewelled Wayne Langford and thanked him for his two terms and Ian Smith who filled a casual vacancy from October 2022. Wayne was very dedicated with his selfless efforts in his role, he does a great deal of work with the Tea Tree Gully RSL Sub-Branch and certainly a great source of understanding of the military environment and it was good to learn from him. His work was always for the best interest of the RSL. Likewise, with Ian Smith's understanding and insight into our governance which is run in a very complex environment and to be able to get things done we have to work within the bounds of the ACNC, the Associations Incorporations Act, a National Constitution, National By-Laws, State Constitution and By-Laws down to Sub-Branch Constitutions. There is a lot of opportunity or reasons for not wanting to get things done and for that to occur, Ian has been really instrumental over the last six months in helping us get through to a new Constitution that was adopted back in December and with By-Law No 9, which still needs to be refined based on our learnings, however, certainly without Ian's input and support, he was confident that we wouldn't have got this election process done. This was received with acclamation. A presentation was made to both Wayne and Ian.

The State President also wished the incoming State President and State Board all the very best in forging the League, in South Australia, into the future.

State President's Report

The State President's Report was encompassed in the Annual Report which had been sent out with all the relevant Annual Sub-Branch Conference Paperwork.

Chief Executive Officer's Report – Mr David Grenvold (which also covered finances)

The CEO summarised the year:

The Conference adjourned for Lunch

State President's Report

MOTION

That the State President's Report be accepted.

MOVED: Salisbury RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch

CARRIED

Chief Executive Officer's Report – Mr David Grenvold (which also covered finances)

The CEO summarised the year stating that basically, we operate with a veterans services model which is the Department of Veterans Affairs model in their wheel of wellness of which we closely align our ourselves and our services with where they are going. When looking at ways of getting the Sub-Branches to play their role in that service delivery model, it can't be fragmented, it must be collaborative, and it must be specific to have real impact. From the outside, observations are that there is no lack of intent in our entire veteran community to be looked after and cared for. It is probably not a lack of money at times, it is just how that money is invested and intent is directed, and he believes that our role at the State Branch in moving forward, is that we would like to get those services on the ground and do that more efficiently and effectively than what is currently being delivered.

Over the last three years and as stated on several occasions, we were the first State to deliver that outside of QLD. It was an RSL QLD program, and the Federal Government gave funding to RSL Australia to have it rolled out nationally and as previously stated, that funding has come to an end. When you tied the funding to provide the whole program your decision making on staffing levels is a bit of a piecemeal approach which we like to be able to get away from and would like to have the funds and resources behind us to have that as a lock of one of our programs as this takes us into a space of transition and contemporary veterans, a critical aspect of the RSL. We are known publicly for our Sub-Branch network and that delivers a certain thing to the community, but it does not deliver some of the services in the areas that we need to do, for us to be relevant across the entire region. This program was run and thanks to RSL Australia, this would be extended for another 12 months as we have current clients in the program and as of last week, we had another six to eight expressions of interest.

Advocacy, employment and wellbeing are the three service tenants that the State Branch is operating with.

Membership is in his report, and it demonstrates that year on year from 2021/2022 we are slightly down on Service and Affiliate membership. We are working closely with the Sub-Branches and that was the reason for issuing distinctly different cards between Service and Affiliate members, it was not to set up any 'us or them' mentality. We are a Service based organisation and our challenge is to help our Affiliate members in the broader community understand why they are a member of a Sub-Branch and to understand that the only reason that they are there is to contribute to veterans programs and Service membership. We are doing that consistently with the Sub-Branches and again that is a challenge, but we have had a couple of wins in that space lately. We at State Branch are not adverse to discussion with Sub-Branches at other forms of membership, but at this point, there are only two form of membership of the RSL and that is a Service and Affiliate member. We are going to set up a membership forum as discussed in the President's forum a couple

of weeks ago and we are committed to doing this with the Sub-Branches for the best way forward on that approach. In 2021 we increased in membership and from year end this year, there was a decline and likewise about 4% across the League.

Fundraising is a challenge and also where our opportunities are were touched on by the National CEO and the fundraising initiatives. At the State Branch level for some of the current initiatives are focussed on are on the Anzac and Poppy Appeal and under our ACNC licence they are really the only Appeals or fundraising that all Sub-Branches should be supporting. Those funds are then directed to programs as needed. The top five Sub-Branches from a Sub-Branch perspective for 2022 were: Port Elliott, Largs Bay, Morphett Vale Women's Auxiliary, Auburn Clare District and McLaren Vale and we thank them for their efforts and would like to see them continue on that way and other Sub-Branches to get on board. A lot of Sub-Branches direct their fundraising efforts to OPK9 which is a great initiative for assistance dogs. We want to clarify and unify our efforts in that space as well. The logo actually no longer exists and was a joint IP between RSB and the RSL and was developed around 10 years ago. There is now no formal agreement between RSB or as it is called now 'Seeing differently now' and we are free to fundraise as we sit fit and independently to what Seeing Differently do. This can be done through the Sub-Branch network and align it back up to the State Branch. The State Branch owns the words 'Operation K9' and when this program was started, the respective management registered that as a trademark and we at the State Branch can use that term to help raise funds for assistance dogs. There are three providers through DVA on their list however, we will raise funds using the Operation K9 terms. We would like the Sub-Branches to do that and through the efforts of Largs Bay and shortly Port Vincent, we currently have approximately \$20k and a rough cost to train a dog is around \$30-35k and when we get to that, we will provide to one of the DVA organisations to obtain an assistance dog for a veteran. Trevor Clerk from Port Vincent made a presentation to the State Branch and stated that over the years they had been raising funds for assistance dogs, they have a golf day yearly, run raffles and one of their major fundraising outside of Anzac and Remembrance Day is for assistance dogs. They have seen how a veteran of theirs has coped with having an assistance dog and he encouraged all the Sub-Branches to raise funds for the same. With some of the Sub-Branches and where they are directing some of their fundraising is completely ineffective on some occasions and we need to understand from the State Branch perspective there are three fundraising efforts in place.

The Sub-Branch contribution back to the State Branch to run the operations and programs of which we have spoken about many times, and we take responsibility around making some interesting decisions around where and how we use that money. In 2016 we had \$1.2m from membership and donations that came in from the Sub-Branch network to the State Branch and this year that is \$440k. It is about a third of what it was five or six years ago and again, we understand some of the reasons as to why that is, however, we totally accept that there is a degree of responsibility from the State Branch, and we will continue to improve how we conduct ourselves. We will not be able to run membership, veterans services and fundraising services unless we are funded and there are some real opportunities for us to work together in that role.

Cash reserves at the moment , with the sale of the Avoca are with \$1m in a term deposit fund, \$750k or thereabouts in the Memorial Hall Trust, equities and cash and we have another \$1.1m from the Memorial Hall Trust which is the corpus amount of that Trust that we can't touch under State Government legislation. There is some cash from RSL and Anzac which will be used for operations for the remainder of the year. Fundamentally, through the sale of the Avoca, and with some careful management of expenses, we need to apply that to provide us with a passive revenue stream to help us run some programs and deliver services back to the Sub-Branches. We do need to set out a plan over the next six, twelve to eighteen months on how we consolidate our financial position as it has been a lot of hard work to get to this point.

MOTION

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be accepted.

MOVED: Largs Bay RSL Sub-Branch

SECONDED: Ardrossan RSL Sub-Branch

CARRIED

Financials and Audited Report

Due to the Financial and Administration Manager being sick and on Teams for the Conference, the CEO spoke on her behalf.

The CEO gave a quick summary and obviously the trading result is still a loss from the consolidation perspective, but an improvement on last year. He directed all to page 38 of the Annual Report and the financials and the breakdown of where that loss came from. \$380k from the Avoca Hotel which was clearly the lion share of that loss and with that now sold, we are anticipating that we will not incur losses anymore. Because the sale went through In January 2023, we do keep that entity operating for another six months and next year we will record one month of operations for the Avoca and that will be in our figures. We are forecasting our RSL, Anzac and Memorial Hall Trust entities for the remainder of this year of a \$320k loss to be able either a break even or a slight profit. The loss on the Avoca was attributed to mainly having a temporary gaming room in place. At the end of 2021 we had received a ridiculous offer for the Avoca, he then referred to Trevor Whitelaw. Trevor advised that had we accepted that offer, it would have paid the bank loan and nothing else. We were forced to keep trading and we then made the decision that if we were going to be in that game then we needed to have keep refreshing you operations in the gaming room and money was put aside for investing and upgrading the gaming room, all the while from the start was wanting to sell the Avoca and offload the asset. If we had done that in 2021, we would not be here today. In 2020 we sold it, and that sale was walked away from at the last minute however, we did keep that deposit and we then put on hold the renovation of the gaming room which left us for an extended period of time in a temporary room. The staff were under a great deal of pressure, and many were leaving with the operations of the place was not great for a period of time however, we managed to consolidate that for a five month period and then we sold it a second time. For 10 months of 2020, the Avoca lost attributed to us wanting to sell it and accommodate the purchasers desire to keep the operation of a temporary gaming room at the time. The business was not running as it should have over this period. We had the worse hotel lease in the country by paying over \$850k rent to our landlord and is of note that the current Board did not sign or negotiate that lease. The outcome as of January 2023, we no longer owned the Avoca. As a Company Limited by Guarantee, we are now in the process of winding it up and deregistering once the final accounts have been paid, this should occur by the end of the July. The State President also thanked the Board of the Avoca, in particular, Rob Gillies and Steve Larkins for the contribution as Directors on the Avoca Board.

MOTION

That the Financial and Audited Report be accepted.

MOVED: Gawler RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Willunga RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED**

MOTION

That the electronic copy of the 2022 Annual Report be accepted.

MOVED: Victor Harbor RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED**

MOTION

That MC Chartered be appointed as Auditors of RSL and Anzac Accounts for 2023/2024.

MOVED: Gawler RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

That MC Chartered continue as Auditors of RSL and ANZAC Accounts for 2023 with the CEO and Finance and Administration Officer to investigate an appropriate Audit Firm to continue for 2024.

MOVED: Mitcham RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Willunga RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED**

Business Session

Dispensing with Standing Orders

A 1.05pm the State President the State President requested that Standing Orders be dispensed with Standing Orders to discuss the outcome of the Northern Veterans Hub.

MOTION

That Standing Orders be dispensed with to discuss the outcome of the Northern Veterans Hub.

MOVED: Gawler RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Jamestown RSL Sub-Branch

CARRIED

The CEO advised the Conference that RSL SA was unsuccessful in their bid for the \$5m grant from the Federal Government to establish a Veterans Hub in the Northern Suburbs and that Lives Lived Well were successful and have been invited to develop a Business Plan to establish and run the Hub from grants monies of \$50k. This was very disappointing, and it was agreed at the last State Board meeting that we should form a response to that decision which has gained some momentum with other Sub-Branches.

Bill Hignett addressed the Conference outlining that on 16 June 2023, the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans Affairs issued a press release announcing that the company Lives Lived Well has been invited to develop a business case to establish a Veterans and Families Hub in Northern Adelaide.

The press release also announced that Lives Lived Well has joined with the Legacy Club of Adelaide to develop a business plan to establish plan to establish and run the Hub.

A search of the Lives Lived Well website shows that the company which is a charity registered with the ACNC is based in Queensland with no current footprint in South Australia. It also reveals that the company's focus is on alcohol and drugs, mental health, gambling addiction and community entry.

The most recent Annual Report on the ACNC website makes no mention of having any veterans on the Board, makes no reference to it having any involvement with veterans and their families or programs supporting them.

The Plympton Glenelg RSL Sub-Branch through the Plympton Veterans Centre has been working in a DVA funded hub at the Repat Veterans Wellbeing Centre in the Reap Health Precinct for the past two years. Our experience is that the advocacy services provided by accredited ATDP Advocates are an essential service in the hub. This service can only be provided by ESO endorsed Advocates and we do not believe that Lives Lived Well and the Legacy Club of Adelaide has the capacity to offer this service on a five day basis.

We provide five volunteer advocates, the Vietnam Veterans Federation provides two volunteer advocates and the Military Brotherhood Military Motor Cycle Club provided four volunteer advocates to offer this service. In addition, we provide five volunteer veteran services officers to support the Advocates by following up on clients, conducting client intake assessments and offering a reception service.

Mr Hignett stated to the Delegates that we have to take a stand on this. The Northern Adelaide Veteran community deserves better than this and we should campaign to have this dreadful decision reversed.

MOTION

That the 2023 Annual Sub Branch Conference register its opposition to the company Lives Lived Well being awarded DVA grants of at least \$5million to establish a Veterans and Families Hub in Northern Adelaide.

That this opposition be registered by in the first instance, the Chief Executive Officer writing to the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans Affairs.

In addition, the Board establish a campaign group representative of Board members and RSL Sub-Branches to engage Sub-Branch Members at the Sub-Branch level in activities that demonstrate this issue is deeply and widely felt in the veteran community in South Australia.

MOVED: Plympton Glenelg RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Murray Bridge RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

At 1.24pm the Conference continued with the remainder of the Agenda

Confirmation of Minutes of the 104th 2022 Annual Sub-Branch Conference

MOTION

That the Minutes of the 104th 2022 Annual Sub-Branch Conference held at Torrens Training Depot on Saturday 2nd July 2022 be accepted.

MOVED: Magill RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: West Croydon Kilkenny RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED**

Confirmation of Minutes of the Extraordinary Sub-Branch Conference

MOTION

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Sub-Branch Conference held at Torrens Training Depot on Friday 2nd December 2022 be confirmed.

MOVED: Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: Robe RSL Sub-Branch **CARRIED**

Defaulting Sub-Branches. There were no defaulting RSL Sub-Branches in attendance.

Late Notices of Motion

There were not late Notices of Motion for 2024.

MOTIONS

ITEM 1: Changes to the State Branch By-Laws

MOTION

That By-Law No 9, Election of State Branch Officers, be accepted.

MOVED: Laura RSL Sub-Branch
SECONDED: McLaren Vale RSL Sub-Branch **LOST**

ITEM 2: Increase Annual Subscriptions for Service Members

MOTION

That the membership annual subscription fee for Service members be increased to \$50 effective from the beginning of the 2024 calendar year and that the annual Service member capitation fee to RSL SA Inc. remain at \$30 a Service and \$25 an Affiliate.

MOVED: Plympton Glenelg RSL Sub-Branch

SECONDED: Murray Bridge

CARRIED

ITEM 3: Service Membership

MOTION

That the AFP, State Police, Ambulance, SES, MFS and CFS (also given other abbreviations in other States) be allowed to become Service Members of the RSL as opposed to Affiliate Members.

MOVED: Largs Bay RSL Sub-Branch

SECONDED: Police RSL Sub-Branch

AMENDMENT TO MOTION (1)

MOTION

That this Conference strongly recommends to RSL Australia for the National constitution to be amended to allow the AFP, State Police, Ambulance, SES, MFS and CFS (also given other abbreviations in other States) to become Service Members of the RSL as opposed to Affiliate Members.

MOVED: Largs Bay RSL Sub-Branch

SECONDED: Police RSL Sub-Branch

LOST

AMENDMENT TO MOTION (2)

MOTION

That this Conference strongly recommends to RSL Australia for the National constitution to be amended to allow current and former serving AFP, State Police, Ambulance, SES, MFS and CFS (also given other abbreviations in other States) to become Service Members of the RSL as opposed to Affiliate Members.

MOVED: Salisbury RSL Sub-Branch

SECONDED: Largs Bay RSL Sub-Branch

LOST

ITEM 4: Closure of Business Session. The Business Session closed at 2.00pm.

ITEM 5: Closing Remarks. The CEO thanked all for attending and in particular, the National CEO. He also thanked outgoing Board Member Mr Trevor Whitelaw for everything he had done as Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Avoca Hotel Board. Everything Trevor has done has been in the best

interest of the RSL and he has always been very wise and sensible with his advice and did a great deal of work behind the scenes.

The State President, presented Trevor with a State Certificate of Appreciation for the many years he had given as Chairman of the RSL SA State Board and Avoca Board, State Vice President and Chairman of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee

The CEO also thanked and made a presentation to outgoing State President, Cheryl Cates. He thanked her for working with him for the last four years, he found her fearless and she always heart in everything she did along with the broader RSL. The RSL National Board also had the utmost respect for Cheryl and her efforts.

The State President responded with sincere thanks and gave an insight into her journey with the RSL of some 30 years where she commenced employment at RSL National in Canberra after leaving the Army. After 10 years' Service in Canberra, and on returning to Adelaide she was appointed to the State Ethics Committee until being elected to the Board in 2016 and some of the ups and downs along the way.

She stated it had been an absolute honour over this four and half years as State President and it had been a great journey of which she has thoroughly enjoyed. She thanked her husband Peter for all the support he had given to her, it has been a tough gig. She has had wonderful support from the Board and in particular, the friendship and support from Trevor Whitelaw. She also thanked the staff at State Branch, Keith, Tara and David for their assistance and support, along with that of the Membership.

She wished the incoming State President and new Board all the very best in their endeavours to continue in moving the State Branch forward. She also thanked the Membership for allowing her to be the State President for the last four and a half years.

This was received with a standing ovation.

Chair

June 2024

Present:

State Branch

Mrs Cheryl Cates
Mr Trevor Whitelaw OAM
Mr Wayne Langford OAM

Mr John O'Grady
Mr Greg Crotty

Mr Bill Denny AM BM
Ms Meredith Burgess
Mr Ian Smith

Mr David Grenvold
Ms Tara Lewis-Christie
Mr Keith Harrison

State President/Chair
Vice President/Board Chair
Board Member/A4 Northern Metro RA/Delegate Tea Tree
Gully Sub-Branch
Board Member
Board Member/D2 Yorke Peninsula RA/Alternate Delegate
Yorketown Sub-Branch
RSL Ambassador
Board Member/Delegate Magill Sub-Branch
Chairman RSL SA Anzac Day Committee/Co-Chair
Aboriginal Veterans SA/Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Finance and Administration Manager **via Teams**
Commemorations & Fundraising Manager RSL SA

Sub-Branches

Nathan Kling (Delegate)
Glenn Seales (Observer)
Jean England (Delegate)
Sandra Kopp (Alternate Delegate)
Leonie Moore (Delegate)
James Nicholson (Delegate)
Brad Rea (Alternate Delegate)
Roy Hasda (Delegate)
Ronald Groves (Alternate Delegate)
Rick Palm (Alternate Delegate)
Rick Flitton (Delegate)
Aaron McMahon (Observer) **via Teams**
Jack Clark (Delegate)
Peter Rankin (Alternate Delegate)
Mathew Verco (Delegate)
Annette Bell (Alternate Delegate)
Colin Wardrop (Delegate)
Paul Little (Alternate Delegate)
Margaret Little (Observer)
Robert Lindner (Delegate)
Wayne Burns (Alternate Delegate)
Colin Hentschke (Delegate)
Neil Bradtke (Alternate Delegate)
James Jury (Observer)
Howden Jennings (Delegate)
Mitch Page (Delegate)
Leon Pollard (Delegate)
Michael O'Hara (Delegate)
Allen Vahlberg (Alternate Delegate)
Rod Lange (Observer)
Bill Parry (Observer)

Adelaide Sub-Branch
Adelaide Sub-Branch
Ardrossan Sub-Branch
Ardrossan Sub-Branch
Auburn Clare Sub-Branch
Brighton Sub-Branch
Brighton Sub-Branch
Colonel Light Gardens Sub-Branch
Colonel Light Gardens Sub-Branch
Colonel Light Gardens Sub-Branch
Crystal Brook Sub-Branch
Darwin Sub-Branch
Enfield Sub-Branch
Enfield Sub-Branch
Freeling Sub-Branch
Freeling Sub-Branch
Gawler Sub-Branch
Gawler Sub-Branch/B1 Barossa RA
Gawler Sub-Branch
Gilles Plains Hampstead Sub-Branch
Gilles Plains Hampstead Sub-Branch
Glynde Sub-Branch
Glynde Sub-Branch
Glynde Sub-Branch
Goolwa Sub-Branch
Gumeracha Sub-Branch
Jamestown Sub-Branch/G2 Northern RA
Kilburn Sub-Branch
Kilburn Sub-Branch
Henley & Grange Sub-Branch
Henley & Grange Sub-Branch

Peter Cates (Alternate Delegate)	Largs Bay RSL/A2 Western Metro RA
Leonie Armbruster (Alternate Delegate)	Largs Bay Sub-Branch
Paul Whelan (Observer)	Largs Bay Sub-Branch
Trevor McKerlie (Delegate)	Laura Sub-Branch
Rob Manuel (Delegate)	Loxton Sub-Branch
Dennis Oldenhove (Delegate)	Macclesfield Sub-Branch
Clyde Slack (Alternate Delegate)	Macclesfield Sub-Branch
Robert McNamara (Observer)	Macclesfield Sub-Branch
Luke Scott (Alternate Delegate)	Magill Sub-Branch/A3 Eastern Metro RA
Denis Jericho (Delegate)	Mannum Sub-Branch
Robert Kraehe (Delegate)	Marion Sub-Branch
Bret Sando (Alternate Delegate)	Marion Sub-Branch
Brian Flavel (Delegate)	McLaren Vale Sub-Branch
Cliff Gibson (Alternate Delegate)	McLaren Vale Sub-Branch
Tim Overett (Delegate)	Meningie Sub-Branch
Jonathan Boyd (Delegate)	Mitcham Sub-Branch
Ron Payne (Delegate)	Morphett Vale Sub-Branch
Mark Wheaton (Alternate Delegate)	Morphett Vale Sub-Branch
Gus Van Lakerveld (Delegate)	Mount Pleasant Sub-Branch
Rod Harris (Delegate)	Murray Bridge Sub-Branch
Terry Nolan (Delegate)	Mypolonga Sub-Branch
Brad Bain (Delegate)	Northfield Sub-Branch
Dan Ford (Alternate Delegate)	Northfield Sub-Branch
Liam Ibbetson (Delegate)	Payneham Sub-Branch
Bill Hignett OAM (Delegate)	Plympton Glenelg Sub-Branch
Tich Tyson OAM (Alternate Delegate)	Plympton Glenelg Sub-Branch
Peter Stanford (Delegate)	Police Sub-Branch
Neville Thomas (Delegate)	Port Elliott Sub-Branch
Jason Tank (Delegate)	Port Noarlunga Christies Beach Sub-Branch
Barry Tozer (Delegate)	Port Vincent Sub-Branch
Trevor Clerke (Alternate Delegate)	Port Vincent Sub-Branch
Fred Wasson (Delegate)	Robe Sub-Branch
Marcia Denning-Wasson (Alternate Delegate)	Robe Sub-Branch
Robert Howard (Delegate)	Salisbury Sub-Branch
Raymond Hall (Alternate Delegate)	Salisbury Sub-Branch
Derek Meadows (Delegate)	Semaphore Port Adelaide Sub-Branch
Ken Bernhardt (Delegate)	Snowtown Sub-Branch
Robert Wills (Delegate)	Stirling Sub-Branch
Leone Taylor (Alternate Delegate)	Stirling Sub-Branch
Trevor Klose (Delegate)	Tanunda Sub-Branch
Elliott Nuttall (Alternate Delegate)	Tanunda Sub-Branch
David Babbage (Observer)	Tanunda Sub-Branch
Kent Johncock (Delegate)	Victor Harbor Sub-Branch
Marilyn Young (Alternate Delegate)	Victor Harbor Sub-Branch
Andrew Walker (Delegate)	Waikerie Sub-Branch
Norm Coleman OAM (Delegate)	Walkerville Sub-Branch
Jeffrey Roberts (Delegate)	West Croydon Kilkeny Sub-Branch
Christine Cundell (Observer)	West Croydon Kilkeny Sub-Branch
Barry Cundell (Observer)	West Croydon Kilkeny Sub-Branch
Mark McLaren (Observer)	West Croydon Kilkeny Sub-Branch
Peter Murray (Delegate)	Willunga Sub-Branch
Liz Rowe (Delegate)	Yorke town Sub-Branch
Greg Crotty (Alternate Delegate)	Yorke town Sub-Branch
Maureen Burford (Observer)	Yorke town Sub-Branch
John Franke (Observer)	Yorke town Sub-Branch

Apologies:

Lucas Allegretto
Kym Parry
Peter De Garis
Denise Barnes
Jaxen Norton
Meg Haensel-Fuss
Margaret Snowden
Ian Gardiner
Jacki Victory
Tony Hooker
Chris Mathias
Barrie Scott
Kelly Copeland
Les Schmidt
Ian Pitman
Mark Lawson-Kent
Bruce Henderson
Alan Stead
Rod Gill
Carl Schulz
Paula Dabovich
Cate Goodall
Mick Stewart
Peter Sims

Balaklava Sub-Branch
Blanchetown Sub-Branch
Coonawarra Penola Sub-Branch
Cummins-Yeelanna Sub-Branch
Cummins-Yeelanna Sub-Branch
Cummins-Yeelanna Sub-Branch
Henley and Grange Sub-Branch
Hilton Sub-Branch
Kapunda Sub-Branch
Lobethal Sub-Branch
Millicent Sub-Branch
Mount Barker Sub-Branch
Mount Gambier Sub-Branch
Nairne Sub-Branch
Palmerston Sub-Branch
Payneham Sub-Branch
Port Augusta Sub-Branch
Port Broughton Sub Branch
Port Victoria Sub-Branch
Seaton Park Sub-Branch
Stirling Sub-Branch
Strathalbyn Sub-Branch
Streaky Bay Sub-Branch
Walleroo Sub-Branch

Apologies were also received from:

Mr Don Spinks AM
Mr Greg Melick AO RFD SC
Miss Chantelle Bohan
Commander Emma McDonald Kerr RAN ADC
AIRCDRE Adrian Maso AM
Mr Duncan Anderson
Mr Ray James OAM
Mr Barry Quinn
Mr Stephen Day DSC AM
Mr John King

Repatriation Commissioner
National President RSL Australia
Director Veterans SA
Commander Naval Group South Australia
Commander Air Warfare Centre
President WA State Branch RSL
President NSW State Branch RSL
President TAS State Branch RSL
President QLD State Branch RSL
President ACT State Branch RSL

In Attendance – Official Opening:

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia
Squadron Leader Naomi Oberscheidt Honorary Aide-de-Camp (HADC)
The Honourable Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs
The Honourable Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs SA
Mr Adrian Pederick MP, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs
Mr Paul Sykes, Adviser to the Minister for Veterans Affairs SA
Lieutenant Commander Gary Burns, Executive Officer of HMAS Encounter
Brigadier Graham Goodwin APM CSC, Commander 9th Brigade
Group Captain David Banham representing Air Commodore Adrian Maso AM, Commander Air Warfare Centre
Mr Phil Winter AM CSC ADC, CEO RSL National
Dr Robert Webster OAM, President RSL Victoria State Branch and Chair of National Veterans' Affairs Committee
Mr Jock Statton AM, RSL SA Past President
10/27 RSAR Band Members
Mr Dave Petersen, incoming State President
Mr Lance Bagster, incoming Board Member
Mr Jonathan Duncan, incoming Board Member
Mr Rod Murray, incoming Board Member