

## Media Release

1 June 2016

### Australia Post commemorates RSL centenary with a new stamp issue

Australia Post is commemorating 100 years of the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) with the release of a new stamp.

This stamp issue, says Australia Post Philatelic Manager Michael Zsolt, “highlights the important role that the RSL has in ensuring the wellbeing, care, compensation and commemoration of serving and ex-service Defence Force members and their dependants.

“The RSL is one of Australia’s oldest and most respected national organisations. We trust this stamp issue will remind all Australians of the significant contribution of the RSL in its centenary year,” he said.

RSL National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd) says: “We are delighted that Australia Post is celebrating our centenary in this way. While acknowledging the past and honouring the extraordinary foresight of our founders, we are firmly focused on how the RSL can best serve veterans, their families, the service and ex-service community and the nation for the next 100 years.”

The League was initially established to care for the welfare of servicemen returning from World War One (1914–18) and has since grown to 1,200 sub-branches Australia wide with 170,000 traditional and affiliate members making it the largest ex-service organisation in the country. Today, membership of RSL Clubs is open to both veterans and the broader Australian community.

The domestic base-rate (\$1) stamp was designed by Melbourne-based Janet Boschen of Boschen Design:

- The stamp design features the badge of the RSL which depicts the Crown signifying allegiance to Queen and country with the national flowers of Australia, Wales, England, Scotland, and Ireland – the wattle, the leek, the rose, the thistle, and the shamrock. The badge also features images of servicemen and women taken from recruitment posters for the armed services from the 1940s and 1950s. The RSL badge is worn in honour only by those who have rendered service in the armed forces of the Crown or its allies.

The products associated with this stamp issue are a first day cover, sheetlet pack, sheetlet of 10 x \$1 stamps, booklet of 20 x \$1 self-adhesive stamps, postal and numismatic cover, medallion cover and a maxicard.

The Centenary of the RSL stamp issue is available now at participating Post Offices, via mail order on 1800 331 794 and online at [auspost.com.au/stamps](http://auspost.com.au/stamps) while stocks last.

-ends-

