



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2010

## Mark Donaldson VC Room

Photo – August State Council Meeting in the new Trooper Mark Donaldson VC Room at the recently renovated ANZAC House.



Dubbo is well advanced to hold the **“RSL National Congress 2010”**. Much help has been done by the Dubbo RSL sub-branch, The Tourist Information Centre, Local Government and the RSL Club Resort.



If you wish to attend, book the following dates Tues/Wed 14/15<sup>th</sup> Sept. And pre book accommodation ASAP as this will fill quickly, or contact the CEO at RSL NSW State Branch for further details.

**Certificates for 90 years** went to, Manly and Rockdale RSL sub- Branches. Congratulations to both sub-Branches.

**“Motion 14” from Congress 2010**, on a new class of membership to be investigated has created much debate from within sub-Branches and District Councils. Dr Rod Bain is the Chairman and he has received many discussion papers.

The closing date was 31<sup>st</sup> August, but has now been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> October. The outcomes will come back to Congress 2011 for your debate. This overview is coming from the grass roots of membership, so it will reflect your response.

From the **“ANZAC Day March” 2010**, allied Australian veteran groups have requested that **Descendants** be allowed to march within the ANZAC Day March.

The Commemorations Committee was re activated and this question was debated and considered the issue in relation to:

- (i) Current eligibility for veterans and descendants to participate,
- (ii) The age of the descendants,
- (iii) The historical implications of granting the request.



Current eligibility to participate in the Sydney ANZAC Day March is as follows:

- (i) As a member, or eligible to be a member, of The Returned and Services League of Australia
- (ii) As a descendant of an Australian veteran. One descendant may represent one veteran by wearing that veterans medals on his or her right breast.

It was resolved, ***“That there be no change to the eligibility criteria for participation in the Sydney ANZAC Day March.”***

The ***“Finance Audit & Risk Management”*** Committee has had a full schedule reviewing items that have been a Congressional request and items within our own good Governance.

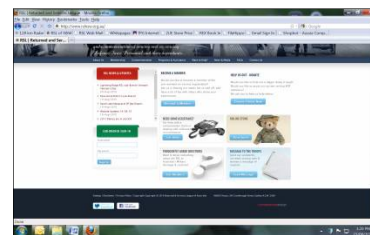
- State President’s Expenses Policy
- Policy and guidelines on Domestic & Overseas Travel
- Replacement Photocopy systems and cost effectiveness
- Review of the State Branch computer system and data base software
- Review of the Financial statement

Our *National President, Ken Doolan’s* address at State Congress on the Tax Compliance of organisations who have a ***“Not for Profit”*** status is taking on more and more relevance for us. It is very important that sub-Branches record hours of all “Voluntary work” spent by its membership in achieving our “Mission Statement”. If you need further information contact State Branch, and a Circular will be released soon to assist RSL sub-Branches.

**Christmas Shutdown** The RSL NSW State Branch will follow all other State Branches and will be closing down operation between Christmas & New Year. It will close from 24th Dec with staff returning to work refreshed & revitalized on 4th Jan 2011.

### **Are you looking at your WEB space**

What a change, hope your interests are within the ***New RSL NSW Web site***, new features.



**CCWA President** has asked to reduce the numbers of her Council, by her Vice President, holding two positions on Council. The CCWA Bylaw Committee has been re activated and been tasked to look at the Executive numbers and future direction. The CCWA has approx 4200 members and 15 Women Councillors, and we the RSL State Council had 29 Councillors when we have a membership of 130,000 approx now with 53,000 approx we have 14 Councillors a drop of over 50%.

From the above *State Council agenda* a review item 22/10 Item 5, flagged a motion that;

- ***“That number of members of State Council be reduced from 14 to 9 from the end of the next term of Office of all State Councillors, being 2014***

This recommendation was accepted by State Council and will be worked through in the coming months, for a Congress Agenda item.



Also item 22/10 Item 6 flagged a motion that;

1. ***“That State Council be renamed ‘State Board’ in all RSL NSW internal and external Government references.”***
2. ***“That the term for the position of ‘State Councillor’ be renamed ‘Director’.”***
3. ***“That the State Secretary investigates the RSL NSW internal usages of the terms of State Council & State Councillor and provide amendments for the appropriate changes for placement before Annual State Congress 2011.”***
4. ***“That the State Secretary investigate all Acts, Bills, Trust Deeds and agreements that would require amendment for the change of terminology from State Council & State Councillor to State Board & Director prior to Annual State Congress 2011 so if accepted arrangements can be made to implement the changes where necessary.”***

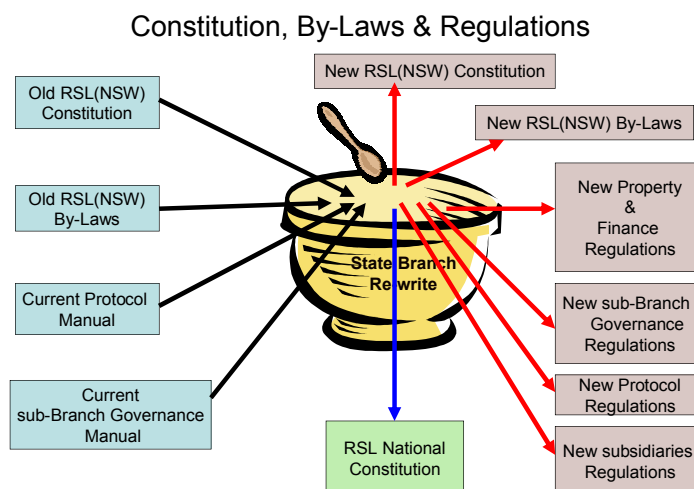
This recommendation was accepted by all State Councillors and will be worked through in the coming months.

**State Council Election** The nominations forms for the upcoming election have changed in a small way, in particular the nominee’s educational skills & technology competence.

**The new RSL NSW Constitution Re-write has progressed to;**

- Constitution has been submitted to Regulatory Authorities
- By-Laws are in the process of being re written, they will then be checked.
- Regulations to be written by March 2011
- All documents to 2011 Congress for approval if not sooner

**New Constitution Matrix**



**The update for 2011 Congress Corporate Plan;**

- Consolidated action plan complete
- Re-focus & revitalisation in the writing of the RSL State Branch - Strategic Plan.
- To be presented to SC Feb 2011
- Strategic Plan to be presented to 2011 Sate Congress.



### **Support and Assistance Fund**

Thanks to the many RSL sub-Branches that have contributed to this fund. National capitations level has been reached and there is some scope to assist sub-Branches. A Circular will be released as soon as the Terms of Reference (TOR) are approved.

Progress thus far:-

- Fund commenced
- TOR requested at May SC
- TOR Circulated 4/8/2010
- TOR to be amended and resubmitted
- Revised TOR to be submitted to Sept, State Executive for confirmation

**The RSL AFOF Fund** has been active during 2010, distributing packages to most overseas Operational and Peace Keeping areas. Packages are prepared in May and November and distributed by the ADF. Due to some short rotation cycles some diggers do miss out, which is most unfortunate but we have to rely on the ADF for delivery of the parcels twice a year. It was also noted that wounded veterans who are evacuated from an area of combat with injuries to overseas facilities do so with a cost to their modesty. Special packages are being considered for those personnel where ever they may be.

**The commemoration of VP Day in the City of Sydney** is increasingly being divided between the Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place at 11-00am and the Service at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk at 2-00pm on the same day. It was decided by State Council to investigate the best options to commemorate the Victory in the Pacific in years to come.

**Australia My Country** competition has recognised a need for a wider opportunity for children to compete with others in their own age group, it was agreed that a new prize be established in the electronic media category for primary schools to start in 2011.

**Guardians of the ANZAC Memorial** As part of the amendments to the ANZAC Memorial Act, The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) is to be appointed as the Guardian of the ANZAC Memorial. RSL NSW will appoint a Custodian, similar to the Custodian of the Cenotaph to administer and support the ceremonial services held at the ANZAC Memorial. For consistency purposes, State Council has appointed the State Secretary as the Custodian of the ANZAC Memorial.

This legislative appointment of the RSL as Guardians of the Memorial will give special honour to the RSL and its members, and a gatekeeper role in preserving the Memorial's appropriate use. To exercise our gatekeeper role as described in the ANZAC Memorial Amendment Bill, State Council has agreed to the formation of a prestige volunteer RSL Corps of Guards from League members to parade at Commemorative services and provide veteran interaction to members of the public. An information Circular will be released later in the year.

Sub-Editor: Mr B.Crosthwaite Input by: D. Rowe, R. White, B. Hardman, B. Durbin,  
B. Humphreys & C. Perrin

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next State Council meeting will be held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November & Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

# THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS JUNE 2010

### Note 1

In 2010 State Council established the RSL NSW Support and Assistance Fund specifically to fund the increased cost of Capitation Fees to the National Headquarters and to provide financial assistance to sub-Branches.

The additional cost of Capitation Fees were \$118,932

The following sub-Branches have donated to the Fund

City of Blacktown sub-Branch	50,000
City of Campbelltown sub-Branch	5,000
Campsie sub-Branch	5,000
South Lake Macquarie sub-Branch	5,000
Padstow sub-Branch	7,500
Kempsey Macleay sub-Branch	3,000
The Entrance Long Jetty sub-Branch	2,000
Doyalson Wyee sub-Branch	5,000
Mudgee sub-Branch	1,000
City of Wollongong sub-Branch	10,000
Woodburn Evans Head sub-Branch	250
Muswellbrook sub-Branch	5,000
Dubbo sub-Branch	3,000
City of Parramatta sub-Branch	2,000
Ashfield sub-Branch	5,000
Wellington sub-Branch	150
Oberon sub-Branch	100
Smithfield sub-Branch	10,000
Bondi Junction Waverley sub-Branch	10,000
Paddington Woollahra sub-Branch	3,000
Seven Hills Toongabbie W/Ville sub-Branch	5,000
North Bondi sub-Branch	10,000
Pelican Flat sub-Branch	1,000
Epping sub-Branch	1,000
	<u>149,000</u>