

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



95th Annual State Congress

**AGENDA
2011**

To be held at
Rooty Hill RSL Club & Resort
Railway and Sherbrooke Streets, Rooty Hill
commencing at 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday 24th May, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Perry'.

STATE SECRETARY

AGENDA

95th ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS

- (A) 10.00 a.m. Wreath laying ceremony at memorial in front of Rooty Hill RSL Club & Resort
- (B) 10.15 a.m. Assembly of official guests and delegates - in Tivoli Auditorium at Rooty Hill RSL Club & Resort

(Congress is requested to be seated by 10.20 a.m.)
- (C) 10.20 a.m. All in attendance stand for the entry of Official Party
- (D) (i) Official Party, on taking up their positions, remain standing while the National Anthem is played and sung by all

(ii) Acknowledgement by State President of distinguished guests
- (E) Silence in memory of departed comrades
- (F) Pledge of Allegiance to the League
- (G) Official opening of Congress.
- (H) Address by official guest, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO.
- (I) PRESENTATIONS

(i) RSL Meritorious Medal to Life Members

(ii) League Certificates of Merit and Badges
- (J) Address by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel and Minister for Indigenous Health, The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP
- (K) (i) State President's Report

(ii) Address by National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)
- (L) PRESENTATIONS

(i) State President's Shield
(ii) RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution, Sir William Yeo Shield
- (M) 12.30 p.m. Adjournment for lunch
- (N) 2.00 p.m. Resumption in Tivoli Auditorium, Rooty Hill RSL Club & Resort

- (O) The appointment of timekeeper and tellers
- (P) Minutes of Annual State Congress 2010

- (i) Minutes to be confirmed

- (ii) Business arising

(1) New Constitution

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) adopt the re-written draft constitution as presented at the 2010 Annual State Congress.”

Supporting argument

At the Annual State Congress 2010, Congress approved for consideration and subsequent adoption the re-written draft constitution subject to and conditional upon:

(a) approval of the draft constitution being obtained from the Australian Taxation Office, the New South Wales Office of Charities and the Attorney General of New South Wales (the “Regulators”);

(b) amending the attached draft constitution to comply with any requirements or legislative issues raised by the Regulators;

(c) if required by any of the Regulators, approval of the draft constitution by the Supreme Court of New South Wales; and

(d) amending the existing By-Laws, Regulations and Standing Policy of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) to ensure such By-Laws, Regulations and Standing Policy are consistent with the attached Constitution.

There have been no changes to the content from these regulatory bodies. RSL NSW is still engaging the Australian Tax Office with regards to the issues raised by the National President at the 2010 ASC.

(2) By-Laws & Regulations

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) adopt the re-written By-Laws and Regulations as distributed by electronic means.”

Supporting argument

At the Annual State Congress 2010, Congress approved for consideration and subsequent adoption the re-written draft constitution subject to and conditional upon:

(a) approval of the draft constitution being obtained from the Australian Taxation Office, the New South Wales Office of Charities and the Attorney General of New South Wales (the “Regulators”);

(b) amending the attached draft constitution to comply with any requirements or legislative issues raised by the Regulators;

(c) if required by any of the Regulators, approval of the draft constitution by the Supreme Court of New South Wales; and

(d) amending the existing By-Laws, Regulations and Standing Policy of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) to ensure such By-Laws, Regulations and Standing Policy are consistent with the attached Constitution.

The By-Laws and Regulations have incorporated all necessary parts from the former Constitution, By-Laws and Manuals.

(3) Proposed new class of membership

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) accept affiliate membership in accordance with the terms of the RSL National Constitution.”

Supporting argument

In accordance with the expressed wishes of the 112 submissions received by the Motion 14 Committee from sub-Branches, individuals and District Councils within the Returned and Services League (NSW) network, a majority expressed a desire for a new class of membership to be advanced within the League (NSW). The most commonly requested form of new membership was that of Affiliate Membership in accordance with the recommendations of the National Constitution and that this membership be restricted to a service member’s immediate relatives or the member actually be an emergency service employee at the time of joining the League e.g. Fireman.

The figures are as follows:-

Submissions supporting an undefined change is required 13.

Percentage of total submissions 11.6%

8 were s/B

4 private individuals

1 D.C.

Submissions supporting an Affiliate Membership is required 58.

Percentage of total submissions 51.8%

45 were s/B

10 private individuals

3 D.Cs.

Submissions supporting NO change is required 41.

Percentage of total submissions 36.6%

29 were s/B

10 private individuals

2 D.Cs.

Total Submissions contributing to this conclusion - **112.**

The above list does not include eight submissions that could not be classified by the committee as falling into any category as they failed to address the question posed by the original tabled motion. In addition, two submissions received requested a plebiscite without answering the motion question in their replies. One was from a S/B and one was a private individual submission.

From the above we may now conclude the following:

A request for change in some form is necessary 11.6%
A request for Affiliate Membership change 51.8%.....**TOTAL 63.4%**

A request for NO change and to remain the same.....**36.6%**

These figures have not been broken down to individual membership numbers because the committee believes, on examination, the result would not be significantly altered in any way and this methodology is not adopted when elections are held for State Branch. It can be seen clearly here that the largest number of participating members lies in the 51.8% submissions requesting affiliate membership change.

(4) Ashfield Western Metropolitan

a.” That The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) conduct a plebiscite of all members of the RSL (NSW Branch) to determine the introduction of affiliate members as defined in Circular 64/10 in the NSW Branch.”

b. “That if approved by constitutional majority of those members entitled and who vote, the amendments are to be brought to the 2012 Annual State Congress for adoption.”

Supporting argument

Under the current voting system within The Returned and Services League (NSW Branch) each sub-Branch has equal voting rights, one vote per sub-Branch irrespective if the sub-Branch has 10 or 1000 members. This system of voting is undemocratic and as a consequence it does not reflect the total separate overview of members either for or against the introduction of affiliate membership.

Many members because of age, illness or distance do not attend sub-Branch meetings and are denied a vote on various issues.

Many sub-Branches because of distance or finance, etc do not attend State Congress, therefore under the present voting system, through no fault of their own, are denied the chance to have a vote and the views of these sub-Branches and members are not considered.

The consequence of affiliate membership into the NSW Branch is far too important an issue for all members of the NSW Branch not to have a say and a vote on this very important change of membership.

(iii) Minutes to be adopted

- (Q) For notice - State Secretary, Returning Officer
- (R) Appointment of Scrutineers
- (S) Appointment of Suspension Committee
- (T) Announcement of guest speakers for Congress
- (U) State Council nominations: - National Officers
 - * National President
 - * Deputy National President
 - * National Treasurer
 - * National Solicitor
 - * Honorary Trustee
- (V) Annual Report, 2010
- (W) Honorary State Treasurer's report
- (X) Financial statements and Auditor's report
- (Y) Motions as listed in the agenda

2011 ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS

MOTIONS

STANDING MOTIONS

1. State Council

Membership fees

***“That in accordance with RSL NSW Constitution – Clause 16.7 & By-Law No. 2 – item 43 – that the annual subscription for 2012 be \$30.00 and that the breakdown for the annual subscription be as follows:
Capitation fee to RSL NSW be \$20.00
Capitation fee to RSL National be \$5.00
and the retention fee to RSL sub-Branch be \$5.00.”***

Supporting argument

Under the new RSL NSW Constitution and By-Laws adopted at the Annual State Congress 2011 it is a requirement that Congress determine the Annual Subscription for each year.

(i) CONSTITUTION

2. State Council

RSL membership fees

“That By-Law No. 6, sub-Clause 24.2 – Annual Subscriptions be amended as follows:-

Item (4) delete ‘\$29’ and insert ‘\$30’

Item (12) delete ‘\$24’ and insert ‘\$25’

And that these changes take effect from the rising of the 2011 Annual State Congress.”

Supporting argument

The previous increase in RSL NSW membership fees was in 2001. Since then the cost of living has increased enormously. Pay and pensions have also increased over that time to varying degrees. The League’s membership was in that year 76,512 and income from membership fees to State Branch was \$1,374,631. RSL NSW State Branch in 2001 had 21 employees. Since that date the revenue received from membership fees has decreased to \$911,286 (2009), a decrease of some 33%.

The number of RSL NSW State Branch employees in 2010 is 22. The wages bill for RSL State Branch has increased by \$368,194 or 35%. The cost of administering RSL NSW State Branch has increased by 6% since the last increase in fees. This is in part due to increased costs (including rent, electricity, postage and consumables) as well as Congress decisions.

An example is the 2005 decision to remove Life Membership fees from sub-Branches. This one decision had a double whammy effect. It increased expenditure and decreased income. This decision has burdened State Branch with the cost of providing *Reveille* to Life Members. This decision further compounded the income at State Branch due to the reduction in income from Life Membership fees. With an increased focus of RSL NSW State Branch to assist RSL sub-Branches with their financial and general administration, a focus that will increase with the ageing of our membership, State Branch can only hope for a small increase in membership fees to maintain its financial stability.

3. North Bondi (unendorsed)

Conflict of Interest

“That the Constitution of The Returned and Services League (New South Wales Branch) be amended as follows:

Insert the following sub-Clause 32.8

1. (a) No person shall simultaneously hold the office of delegate or alternate delegate on any District Council of RSL sub-Branches and the office of State Councillor.

(b) If a person who holds the office of either a delegate or alternate delegate on any District Council is elected as a State Councillor, they shall immediately resign their position as delegate or alternate delegate.

2. This change shall be effective on the rising of the 2011 Annual State Congress.”

Supporting argument

This amendment is designed to prevent conflicts of interest between State Council and the various District Councils of RSL sub-Branches.

It is also designed to prevent State Councillors from usurping the authority of District Council Presidents during District Council Meetings.

Further, it is to bring equality amongst the delegates so as to not make a delegate or alternate delegate feel subordinate to a State Councillor during District Council meetings so as to have a free flow of ideas and deliberations pursuant to the RSL (NSW Branch) Constitution Clause 64.

4. North Bondi (unendorsed)

Grievance procedure

“That the Constitution of The Returned and Services League (New South Wales Branch) be amended as follows:

1. Insert the following Clause 21AC:

21AC. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

21AC.1 (a) Each sub-Branch Committee shall appoint, for a three year term, a Grievance Officer to deal with grievances from individuals.

(b) The Grievance Officer may be any financial member of the sub-Branch and need not be on the sub-Branch Committee.

21AC.2 An aggrieved individual may submit a written grievance, within 30 days of discovery of any incident in which the individual is believed to have been wronged, to the sub-Branch Grievance Officer at the sub-Branch of the individual who is subject to the grievance.

21AC.3 Upon receipt of a grievance, the sub-Branch officer shall assign it a case number; review the grievance and any evidence submitted; and forward the grievance with a report of facts and findings together with recommendations for resolution not more than 14 days of receiving the grievance to the sub-Branch Committee.

21AC.4 (a) The sub-Branch Committee, upon receiving a grievance and report from the Grievance Officer, at the next ordinary meeting, shall endeavour to resolve the grievance or forward it to the State Branch Tribunal for resolution or refer it to a Disciplinary Committee.

(b) The resolution of the grievance or forwarding to the State Branch Tribunal or Disciplinary Committee shall be in writing not more than 14 days of the sub-Branch Committee's consideration of the grievance.

(c) The transmittal of the resolution or notification that it has been forwarded to the State Branch Tribunal or a Disciplinary Committee shall be sent by registered Australia Post to the residential address of the aggrieved individual.

21AC.5 Appeal of any sub-Branch Committee's resolution of a grievance may be taken to the State Branch Tribunal by submitting a notice of appeal and the reasons for such appeal, in writing, no later than 28 days after receipt of the sub-Branch Committee's written decision.

21AC.6 (a) The State Branch Tribunal shall schedule a date for any appeal it receives for resolution within 28 days after receipt of a notice of appeal and inform the individual who filed the grievance in writing the date it has been scheduled for resolution.

(b) The State Tribunal shall resolve the appeal not more than 45 days after an appeal has been lodged.

(c) A written decision of the State Branch Tribunal on the appeal shall be transmitted to both the appellant and the concerned sub-Branch Committee not later than 14 days of the decision by registered Australia Post.

21AC.7 (a) In grievances arising from incidents involving officers of the State Branch, the grievance shall be submitted to the State Branch Secretary within 30 days of discovery of any incident in which the individual is believed to have been wronged.

(b) The State Branch Secretary shall transmit the grievance no later than 14 days to the State Branch Tribunal.

(c) The State Branch Tribunal shall schedule the grievance for resolution within 28 days after receipt of the grievance and inform the individual who filed the grievance, in writing, of the scheduled date.

(d) The State Branch Tribunal shall resolve the grievance not more than 45 days after the grievance has been lodged.

(e) A written decision of the State Branch Tribunal on the grievance shall be transmitted to the individual who filed the grievance not later than 14 days of the decision by registered Australia Post.

21AC.8 (a) If a sub-Branch Committee finds the conduct cited in the grievance rises to a level of conduct unbecoming a member or associate, the grievance shall be forwarded along with any supporting evidence to an appropriate Disciplinary Committee for resolution.

(b) If the sub-Branch Committee makes a referral of the grievance to a Disciplinary Committee, it shall inform the individual who filed the grievance in writing no more than 14 days by registered Australia Post that it has done so.

2. This change shall be effective at the rising of the 2011 Annual State Congress."

Supporting argument

This amendment is designed to provide a state-wide grievance procedure since there is no such procedure in existence within State Branch.

The use of a grievance procedure would permit individuals aggrieved to a basic procedure of due process in order to redress their grievance.

Such a procedure is a double dividend because it helps to protect individuals who have been wronged and also serves to protect the RSL organisation and its officers from organisational liability of wrongful acts of an individual by calling quick attention to wrongful acts and permitting the RSL organisation to take action in resolving the matter internally and in a timely manner.

(ii) NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

(iii) VETERANS' AFFAIRS MATTERS

5. BCOF (Intra Mural)

Access to Gold Card

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) request RSL National to give full support to the implementation of Item 43, ‘Warlike Service to 30th June, 1947’ and Item 68 ‘Access to Gold Card’ for that period in relation to BCOF service as per the Clarke Review 2003.”

Supporting argument

When the Labor Government came to power in 2007 the DVA stated, as a matter of priority, the Clarke Review would be re-appraised and this would be dependent on the findings of the “Nature of Service Review Team” set up by the Dept of Defence. This Review Team recommended that “Justice Clarke’s recommendations be upheld and that BCOF personnel who served in Japan to 30 June 1947 be admitted to qualifying service eligibility without further delay”. This matter should no longer be deferred but acted upon immediately.

6. Lidcombe (Western Metropolitan)

Pharmaceutical benefits for veterans

“That this Congress strongly requests RSL National to urge the Federal Government to provide free pharmaceutical benefits to veterans in respect of accepted war-caused injuries and ailments in the 2011 Budget.”

Supporting argument

Whilst we agree that this motion is already supported by National, we propose that such a motion as shown should reflect the urgency of such a proposal. This extra cost would be minimal in the overall structure of DVA benefits. It is suggested that the average number of referrals would be no more than six covering around one to two months, with a maximum charge of \$350 yearly for each eligible veteran. Since DVA recognises the compensation payable for war caused injuries etc, it is difficult to understand why each veteran is asked to pay \$5.80 a referral to cover the cost of treatment for such war caused injuries and illness.

7. **Forster-Tuncurry** (Lower North Coast)

Gold Cards to widows of veterans

“That RSL National lobby the Federal Government so that the widows of veterans who are in receipt of the Gold Card be granted the Gold Card on the death of the veteran irrespective of them being the widow of a TPI, Intermediate Rate or EDA veteran.”

Supporting argument

The widow of a veteran has over many years worked tirelessly for the veteran’s health and well being, on many occasions depriving herself of an easier life for her own self. On the death of her veteran spouse she now has the problem of caring for herself with virtually nil benefits. Often after the death of a loved one the widow’s own health suffers therefore leaving her with medical costs she never envisaged. Widows of veterans are most deserving of the Gold Card.

(iv) **SOCIAL SECURITY AND TAX**

(v) **DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES**

(vi) **THE LEAGUE**

8. **State Council**

RSL Membership Cards

“That this Congress directs RSL NSW State Branch to search for and identify a sponsor for RSL NSW Membership Cards and seek full or part sponsorship for all cards issued for the 2012 membership year’.”

Supporting argument

The year clips were removed from the RSL badge because they and the cardboard card cost RSL NSW something in the vicinity of \$14k. In 2009, plastic credit card style cards were introduced to comply with the RSL National direction and for convenience of storage in a purse or wallet. The cost of producing RSL membership cards jumped significantly from \$2,175 to \$38,248.

This was an increase of more than 1500%. The cost in 2010 will be lower than in 2009 as new cards will not be issued to life members and life subscribers. This is anticipated to still amount to approximately \$30,000. A sponsor for RSL NSW Membership Cards could reduce or eliminate that cost to State Branch.

9. State Council

RSL Membership Fees

“That this Congress directs RSL NSW State Branch to cease the previous Congress instruction to allocate \$1 per member from RSL NSW Membership Fees to the RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution with effect from the rising of this Congress.”

Supporting argument

It has been directed by Congress that \$1 per member from the RSL NSW Membership Fees be paid to the RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution (RSL WBI). This has been and still is a magnificent gesture to aid the most remarkable work that the RSL WBI does.

Of recent times the services of the RSL WBI have been called upon by the increased operation tempo of the Sydney based 2 Commando Regiment and the visibility created by employing professionals in the social welfare field. However, the financial pressures of operating State Branch in today’s climate, the increased focus of State Branch on helping and assisting RSL sub-Branches and members and the increased scrutiny on regulatory compliance issues are going to hit State Branch hard.

10. Northern Metropolitan

RSL sub-Branch Handbook

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) compile a precise, concise and specific ‘RSL sub-Branch Handbook’ for issue to sub-Branches and District Councils to guide them in the running of RSL meetings and to provide ready access to important procedural information.”

Supporting argument

It would provide a handy and invaluable guide for conducting sub-Branch meetings, particularly for new office bearers.

It would provide a useful, quick reference when contentious issues arise during sub-Branch meetings.

It would provide useful information for presidents and secretaries to re-acquaint themselves on matters relating specifically on conducting sub-Branch meetings.

While sub-Branch rules and regulations are fully covered in the RSL Constitution, they are not quickly able to be identified during busy meetings.

The RSL Handbook/RSL Diary/RSL Protocol and Procedures contain useful guidelines but there is no single handbook directed solely on running an RSL sub-Branch.

11. **State Council**

Annual State Congress

- “a. That this Congress directs RSL NSW State Branch to hold a competitive tendering process for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual State Congress;*
b. That the Annual State Congress for 2012, 2013, and 2014 be open to any venue within the state of NSW;
c. That preference is given to the tender which has greater consideration given to the cost savings to RSL NSW State Branch and provides the best overall proposal.”

Supporting argument

It is an obvious observation that costs are increasing in our daily lives and RSL NSW State Branch is no exception. There are a number of internal cost reduction campaigns that will be implemented in 2011 to reduce increases in our administration costs at ANZAC House.

Looking at the issue of expenditure in a holistic fashion, there are some obvious areas that can be reviewed including Annual State Congress (ASC). One of those that may prove advantageous for ASC to consider is permitting our equivalent of our AGM to be conducted in any location within the State of New South Wales and that competitive tendering for rights to hold the ASC is engaged to minimise the costs to RSL NSW State Branch.

The cost of ASC has been:-

2006	-	\$29,761
2007	-	\$46,584 (including Extra-Ordinary Congress)
2008	-	\$34,076
2009	-	\$35,247

It could therefore be argued that if left unaltered, these costs will in fact continue to rise, not reduce and place more financial stress on RSL NSW State Branch. In fact the last submission from Rooty Hill RSL Club Ltd had built-in increases whether they were justified or not. In some cases services that were provided at no cost now incur additional costs and planned increases.

12. **State Council**

Annual State Congress conduct and procedure

“a. That State Congress requests the RSL State Council to investigate reviewing/changing the Annual State Congress program to allow a more progressive and interesting program for those delegates, visitors and guests attending this most important Congress.

b. That this may involve changing the format which has been in place for many years.”

Supporting Argument

For a number of years Annual State Congress has operated the same as it did when Congress went for three full days and where hundreds of motions were debated.

In recent years State Council has been using State Council and State Executive meetings to further matters to RSL National, State and Federal Governments rather than wait sometimes up to 16 months. Also in recent times the award presentations have been embarrassing with many in attendance at the official opening leaving during this session. It is felt that the importance and significance of the League's most prestigious awards is somewhat diminished.

A full and complete review of the activities of Administration Seminar and Congress in its entirety is to be conducted by the State Secretary and put in place for the 2012 Annual State Congress.

13. State Council

Financial reports

“That the financial reports be graphically represented in the printed Annual Report and the complete and detailed report be available on the website and printed copies only be provided on request of sub-Branches commencing with Annual Report 2011.”

Supporting Argument

The Finance, Audit, and Risk Management Committee of State Council recommend to Congress that the style of the presentation of the Annual Report be changed, not the annual financial statements themselves. It is intended to bring the League into step with modern practices of graphically representing the annual accounts in the annual report. There is no longer a regulatory requirement to reproduce the annual financial report in detail in the Annual Report. The ever changing accounting standards over the last ten years have added volumes to the annual report with only a handful of members understanding all the notes to the accounts. It is suggested that the entire and complete annual financial report, including notes to the accounts, will be made freely available on the RSL NSW website and in printed version to any RSL sub-Branch requesting a hard copy. State Council ask you consider this proposal favourably.

14. State Council

Name change for State Council and State Councillors

“a. That State Congress approves the change in name from State Councillor to State Councillor/Director and from State Council to State Council/The Board and;”

“b. That if approved, the State Secretary is to present all relevant amendments to the Constitution at the 2012 Annual State Congress for adoption.”

Supporting argument

This motion is submitted in line with the 2010 Annual State Congress resolution which gave the State Secretary the additional title of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The reasoning behind this motion is the same in that the title of 'board' and 'director' is in keeping with the corporate governance structure of State Council. The intent of this motion is to amend the definition of State Council and State Councillor only and not change each individual reference.

15. Bowral (Central Southern)

Defence honorary membership

1. "That the State RSL Council recommends to the RSL National Body that they ask the Department of Defence to arrange for all current serving members of the armed forces to be offered immediate honorary membership of the RSL in the sub-Branch of their choice and that such membership be provided by the RSL free of charge after six month's service in the armed forces."

2. "That the State RSL Council recommends to the RSL National Body that such honorary membership granted to serving members of the armed forces automatically become service members upon expiry of six months continuous service in the armed forces."

Supporting argument

The RSL is the central representative organisation for service personnel and their immediate families and provides ongoing support during service and following discharge. Documentation supplied to the serving members should emphasise the importance of the RSL to the current and future welfare of members of the armed services and their families.

Sub-Branch membership of service personnel would enable RSL contact on a personal basis from fellow branch members and provide support for service personnel wherever they may be, particularly when on active duty overseas. This would demonstrate the continuing role that we play in looking after their welfare and that of their families.

(vii) COMMEMORATION, CEREMONIAL AND MEMORIALS

16. Oberon (Blue Mountains)

Remembrance Day services

"That The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) put into place an advertising campaign to increase awareness in the general public of the importance of Remembrance/Armistice day."

Supporting argument

For a period of time from the early 1970's till the beginning of the 21st century, NSW schools dropped history from their curriculum. Thus there is a large group of Australians from the ages of 45 to 20 that has no idea what was the armistice or the importance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We observe the beginning of World War One, as Australians we remember the first time our servicemen came under fire as a nation but it seems as if the importance of the cessation of hostilities throughout the world has been lost on a large portion of a generation. There is a large media education program to the general population in regards to ANZAC day, why do we not have a similar promotion in the media for Armistice Day?

17. **Northern Metropolitan**

Commemoration motion

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) requests the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust to replace the commemorative plaque to the memory of those members of the Australian Defence Force who were killed accidentally whilst on active service, installed in the Sydney Domain in 2006, with a more suitable plaque and to ensure it is always accessible to the viewing public.”

Supporting argument

The existing plaque is slightly larger than A4 size, is made of a transparent material, affixed to a section of the roadway barrier wall facing inwards to the Sydney Domain. It is barely visible to those passing nearby and substantially encroached upon by surrounding shrubs. During periods of festivities within the Domain, the plaque is totally concealed by portable amenity structures and security fencing. Recent inquiries to the Trust revealed that the existence of the plaque was mostly unknown to senior Trust executives.

The plaque should be re-produced in bronze type material, should not include the details of the politician who was responsible for the Trust at the time and surrounding shrubs should be maintained appropriately.

(viii) **DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

18. **East Maitland** (Hunter Valley)

Recognition of Australian Defence Force (ADF) volunteers

“That The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) request RSL National to lobby the Federal Government to recognise Australia's Regular and Reserve volunteers by the creation of a specific medal for past and present Defence Force volunteers.”

Supporting argument

Our volunteer service people have given outstanding service to the nation since before Federation and continue to do so in many operational areas across the world.

In contrast to these millions of volunteers, our 300,000 National Servicemen, who served a maximum of two years service under that scheme, have been well recognised in recent years. Whilst it is not the intention of this motion to in any way denigrate the service of our National Servicemen, it is noted that in recent years they have been recognised by the following:

- The award of the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (ANSM).
- The award of the Australian defence Medal (ADM).
- A commemorative 50 cent piece.
- A commemorative stamp.
- The dedication of a new memorial at Canberra to commemorate the service of National Servicemen.

No such level of recognition has been given to those who have volunteered for service as regulars or reserves in the ADF. If you take the case of a volunteer today who completes their period of engagement, usually four years, and chooses to discharge, they will leave the ADF with the award of the Australian Defence Medal only, if they have not been deployed overseas. Over the last twenty or more years there have been many volunteers in this situation. This does not seem to be equitable.

The authors of this motion are aware of two brothers who highlight the inequity of this situation. One brother was conscripted for National Service in 1951, served three months and has subsequently been awarded both the above medals. In stark contrast, the other brother served nine years in the Regular Army and has only been awarded the ADM.

The time has come to instigate initiatives to specifically recognize our ADF volunteer servicemen and women, past, present and future. They have been the backbone of the ADF and continue to give their all for our nation. No matter if they be Regular or Reservist volunteers, they remain extremely professional, dedicated and deserve adequate recognition by their country.

19. Glen Innes (New England)

Ribbon Bars for medals-multiple deployments of ADF Personnel

“That the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) requests National RSL to lobby the Federal Government to design and implement a system utilising appropriate ribbon bars that may be positioned on the ribbons of medals awarded to all ADF personnel who serve on overseas active service on multiple deployments so as to give an accurate representation of that service.”

Supporting argument

During the Vietnam conflict, the government of the day issued a medal ribbon bar to signify that the recipient of that particular medal had completed multiple tours of duty to the date of the inscription on the bar. During more recent times the diminutive ADF has become involved in many conflicts and it has therefore become a necessity for personnel to be deployed to those areas on a regular basis.

A large number of our ADF personnel have already completed multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan over a relatively short period of time but have nothing to denote their numerous deployments.

(ix) SECURITY

(x) POPULATION

(xi) EDUCATION

20. Toronto (Newcastle)

National history curriculum - WWI

“That RSL National lobby the Federal Minister for Education to ensure that the proposed National History Curriculum continues to include the study of the full history of Australia’s involvement in World War 1 by not having the time allocated to such studies being halved as reported in the press.”

Supporting argument

As reported in “The Daily Telegraph” 30th October, 2010 by Gemma Jones, the study of World War I is to have the time devoted halved as recommended by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Advisory Authority (ACARA).

Not only was Australia’s role in the “Great War” perhaps the single most nation-shaping moment in our history, the paring back of its study smacks of the fashionable shunning of any subject matter deemed to be “Euro-centric”.

21. Toronto (Newcastle)

National history curriculum – Other Conflicts

“That RSL National lobby the Federal Minister for Education to ensure that the proposed national history curriculum includes the study of the wars in South Africa, Korea, Vietnam, the Indonesian Confrontation and Malayan Emergencies as well as the study of World Wars I and II for junior high school students.”

Supporting argument

As reported in “the Sydney Morning Herald”, 30th October, 2010 by Dan Harrison and Anna Patty, the Steering Committee for the National Curriculum into Australian Classrooms (ACARA) has recommended the culling of such teachings for years 7 to 10, to be studied only in years 11 and 12.

It is important that Australian students are given the full history of Australia’s military involvements and histories from an early age to appreciate the consequences of that history and the need to have a full and comprehensive knowledge of Australia’s role in the world.

(xii) AUSTRALIAN YOUTH

(xiii) AGED CARE IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

(xiv) GENERAL STANDING POLICY ON VARIOUS MATTERS

Next Annual State Congress:- 28, 29 & 30 May 2012