



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20TH— 21ST FEBRUARY 2009

- Australia Day Medallions were presented to Mr John Haines OAM and Mr Roderick White AM, RFD, ED. These gentlemen are the Vice President and State Hon. Treasurer respectively.
- Far South Western District Council's By-Laws draft for approval was passed with corrections.
- Request for District Councils to send in a copy of their By-Laws for approval by State Council (repeated from November's News Sheet).
- Request from CCWA Hon Sec for their Congress to be held before the RSL State Congress. Matter to be dealt with at 2009 RSL State Congress.
- Request for reproduction RSL lapel badges be removed from National RSL store as their sale contravenes the Discharged Serviceman's Badges Act 1964, No 49.
- New goods on sale by NSW State RSL shop. These include mugs, steins, umbrellas and a new design of the RSL sticker which includes the Australian flag.
- CCWA Life Membership Nominations from 17th February were presented for adoption.
- In the upcoming RSL Teleconference there is to be information supplied to improve the standard of award applications and recommendations by the RSL State Branch officers as to District Council President Training.
- Squadron Leader Del Gaudry, State Manager, Defence Reserves Support gave an excellent presentation on the character and make up of the 24,500 reserves currently in the ADF. She is prepared to give similar presentations throughout the state to suitable audiences if contacted at [del.gaudry@defence.gov.au](mailto:del.gaudry@defence.gov.au)
- Life Membership and Certificate of Merit and Gold Badge nominations accepted along with recommendations for changes to By-Law 16 applications for the latter award.
- National Congress in 2010 will be held in NSW and it was recommended that Dubbo be the preferred site for a rural location.
- State Branch Governance work continues development with presentations from the task forces dealing with the five current categories. Membership, RSL Image, Corporate Governance, Stakeholder Development, Commemoration.
- The following motions developed by the Membership Task Force were adopted:
  - a) That a new RSL information pack be developed for recruiting and that professional assistance be sort from within our own ranks.
  - b) That a Younger Defence Member's Forum be set up within the State RSL to make recommendations to State Council to improve its appeal to younger service personnel.
  - c) That the abbreviation RSL should only be used when referring to the Club facilities. The sub-branch should be termed, the Returned and Services League sub-branch and the shortened

term avoided when possible during any verbal exchange.

Discussion ensued on the Development of a Returned and Services League Workforce Auxiliary as there is now a demonstrable number of service related citizens wishing to assist the League in its work, although they remain ineligible for membership.

- There is a notice from National Executive that there will be a rise in their affiliation fee, from \$2.50 to \$5.00 This will have to be passed onto members in a fee rise to NSW State Branch membership fees to \$35 p.a. This will be subsidised by sub-branches when possible. To be discussed at State Congress.
- The Committee is encouraging sub-branches when able to donate to the President's Shield Fund as it is from this source that the accounts of State Branch are paid. Too many sub-branches continue to donate to non-service related activities.
- Rear Admiral Ken Doolan of the League's National Defence Committee made a presentation in some detail of the committee's activities. Without delivering the details, councillors were collectively impressed by the committee's workload, their efforts and ongoing achievements.

He divided his presentation into four sections: Review of Australia's Current Outlook; Up to date developments in Australia's Defence hardware; Submissions to Parliamentary enquiries; Diplomacy and following through.

Executive Officer Information Section of WBI reports a 75% success rate with DVA appeals. From March 2009 RSL State Branch will be in a position to supply free legal advice on general matters requiring a professional opinion, for all RSL members. Partners separated from PTSD sufferers but not legally divorced will not lose their pension entitlements. Voluntary work performed while receiving a service entitlement pension will not be a cause for pension review.

The Defence Reserves Support website was heavily promoted and a visit to [www.defence.gov.au/reserves](http://www.defence.gov.au/reserves) strongly recommended to all readers. Navy reserves are now critical to the RAN sailing at all. There is now a wide range of Employer and Industry Engagement Support Activities available. These include Employer Support Awards, Employer Support Payments and Self traders are also eligible. Human Resource Managers should be aware of the Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001. The ADF Reserve component has increased since Timor to 24,500 hence the Act. The advantages of having such employees needs to be sold to employers hence the Defence Reserves Support Council which Mr Rodney Cavalier Chairs in NSW.

- Recommendations were made for nominations to National Executive and these will be presented at State Congress. The current National President is not seeking re-election.
- The Integrated People Support Strategy (I.P.S.S.) is the new ADF term, whereby the ESOs will provide assistance to those service personnel re-entering civilian life through the Transition Seminar Process. The first of these commences in Townsville, 2-3 March 2009.
- It is important that the RSL District Councils should endeavour to have an interested representative on Regional Committees for Reserves in their respective areas, if at all possible.
- Work to be done by RSL State Branch to develop a policy on the use and responsibilities of RSL patrons.
- Trooper Mark Donaldson VC was nominated for Honorary Life Membership of the RSL.
- That State Council support Mr Reg Tulip as the IPSS (Integrated People Support Strategy) Co-ordinator and he will be the primary contact and will present at Transition Seminars.
- Youth Council Chairman to travel to Albury RSL sub-Branch to speak on the benefits of youth clubs in local areas.