



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL

MEETING HELD 24TH AND 29TH MAY 2008

RSL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

State Council approved the nominations for Life Membership of the League for the following RSL members;

Athol Victor Marriott	- Grafton
Donald Gurnett	- Brighton-Le-Sands
Donald Kilpatrick	- Brighton-Le-Sands
Allan Victor Breeze	- Bowraville
Len Palmer	- South Hurstville
William Thomas Harrigan	- Bondi Jun.-Waverley
Kenneth Albert Wighton	- Epping
John Kirkwood Curdie	- Epping
Laurence Sidney Tucker	- City of Penrith
Robert Joseph Gehrig	- Kingsgrove
Geoffrey Tate	- Liverpool
Graeme Bellemy	- Panania
Chris Salakas	- Malabar
Kenneth Oliver Triggs	- Auburn
Bernard Timothy Keady	- Epping

These were subsequently approved by RSL National for the award of Life Membership.

RSL WEB ADDRESS

State Council have directed that State Branch change the address of its web site to better reflect our position as an organisation and as a not-for-profit body. State Branch has changes its web address to www.rslnsw.org.au this has removed the .com.au from the address better reflecting our status in the community. State Branch email addresses will also be changed to .org.au. To further enhance our RSL profile and build on our professional outlook, sub-Branches and District Councils will also be offered a State Branch email address. A circular will be sent to all sub-Branches and District Councils advising them of the method by which they may apply for an rslnsw.org.au email address

ARMY COMBAT BADGE

State Council approved that the National Conditions of Service Committee be requested to lobby the Defence Department to make the miniature Army Combat Badge free to all recipients.

AUSTRALIAN HOSPITAL SHIP CENTAUR

Given the recent news of the finding of HMAS Sydney II, there has been renewed interest in the whereabouts of the AHS Centaur.

Wednesday, May 14, 2008 marks the 65th Anniversary of the torpedoing and sinking of the Australian Army Hospital Ship Centaur, a vessel of mercy on the turbulent waters of a world at war. It is thought that AHS Centaur lies in deep water off the continental shelf, but only some 50 nautical miles from Brisbane's CBD.

The loss of life was second only to that of HMAS Sydney, and all were Army medical non-combatants and unarmed merchant seamen, on an errand of mercy, making her loss the greatest maritime disaster in the Pacific.

The RSL also strongly supports the introduction of a bill to Federal Parliament to enable the protection of ships sunk on active service as Maritime War Graves. There is currently no legislation that will do that. Centaur is completely unprotected.

The NSW Branch of RSL will request National to lobby the Federal Government to provide sufficient funding to ensure the search for the WW2 Australian Hospital Ship Centaur continues until the remains of the Centaur is found and protected.

HMAS SYDNEY II

Mr Don Rowe, State President, will be the representative from RSL (NSW) State Branch to attend the HMAS Sydney ceremony in Western Australia.

The RSL in New South Wales expressed their displeasure at being excluded from the church service at St Andrews Cathedral on the 24th April 2008 to honour and commemorate the loss of HMAS Sydney II.

STATE RECRUITING OFFICER

It was adopted at State Council that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Mr Stephen Pemberton for his contribution to the League as the State Recruiting Officer.



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RSL DAY CARE CLUB CO-ORDINATOR

State Council appointed the new RSL Day Club State Co-Ordinator, Mr Tom Barnsley effective from 1st July 2008.

Mr Barnsley will takeover the reins of Ted Richards who will retire after 25 years as State Co-Ordinator of Day Clubs in NSW.

We wish Ted a happy and healthy retirement.

ILMA ALLEN RSL YOUTH HOSTEL

The Ilma Allen Youth Hostel at Cabramurra in the Snowy Mountains is operated by State Branch and is to be refurbished. State Council agreed a plan to replace all the windows and certain white goods in the large common kitchen.

Ilma Allen Youth Hostel is situated some 100km from Cooma on the western side of the Snowy Mountains. Accommodation can be provided for up to 40 people in rooms where the majority have a double bunks and other rooms have a double bed and bunk.

The hostel is available to all RSL members and their family by contacting Mr John Titcume, Cabramurra Hostel Co-ordinator, PO Box 73, Bulli NSW 2516.

RSL LIFECARE

It was resolved that an amendment be made to By-Law No. 42 to include the following RSL LifeCare Aged Care Facilities in the list of RSL recognised charities:

- RSL LifeCare North Coast
- Ex-Services Home Ballina
- Bayside @ Byron
- RSL LifeCare @ Home North Coast
- Myall Lodge, Hawks Nest
- Linton Village, Yass
- Rowland Village, Galston
- The Lakes of Cherrybrook
- Cherrybrook Gardens
- Remembrance Village, Wagga Wagga.

RESTRUCTURE OF STATE BRANCH COMMITTEES

State Council adhering to the accepted Corporate Governance has reduced several committees at State Branch. Whilst some committees have ceased others remain to be incorporated with existing committees.

RSL LIFECARE AT HOME

RSL LifeCare proposes to establish a 'brand' name for the current Community Care Service (care in the home services).

It was accepted by State Council for RSL LifeCare to register the business name as 'RSL LifeCare at Home' so not to create a separate company.

"NSW REMEMBERS" BANNERS FROM ANZAC HOUSE

State Branch recently received as a gift of twenty three "NSW Remembers" Banners which were displayed on ANZAC Day by the City of Sydney.

A circular will be sent to all sub-Branches advising of the availability of the banners and distribution will be made by way of ballot to those interested.

TRUSTEES TRAINING

State Council considered the proposal to hold a series of Training Seminars for RSL sub-Branch Trustees at regional level on a regular basis designed to give all sub-Branch Trustees a full and concise understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

State Branch will gather relevant information on the duties of Trustees to create a training package.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of State Council will be on Friday, 22nd and Saturday, 23rd August 2008 in ANZAC House Sydney