

**The Returned & Services League of Australia
(New South Wales Branch)**

**Notice of 2022 Annual Congress &
Annual General Meeting**



“The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance”

**ANZAC House
Level 11, 175 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
ABN 78 368 138 161**

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Agenda

The Annual Congress and Annual General Meeting will be held at Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (NEX), 309 King Street Newcastle, over two days on Monday, 31 October and Tuesday, 1 November 2022 in-person and via remote access, commencing at 9.30am.

DAY 1 - ANNUAL CONGRESS

Welcome

Acknowledgment of Country
Pledge of Allegiance

Act of Remembrance

Wreath laying ceremony
The Ode
Last Post
Minute's Silence
Rouse
Australian National Anthem

National President Address

TBC

Patron's Address and Awards

Her Excellency The Governor of New South Wales

Break

Strategic Plan Update

Jon Black CEO & Jonathan Childs PM

State President's Shield

Ray James OAM, President

Lunch

Board Report

Sophie Ray, Chair RSL NSW Board

ACNC

Deborah Jenkins, Acting Commissioner ACNC

District Presidents' Council

Derek Leslie, Chair DPC

Break

Young Veterans Committee

Sarah Watson, Chair Young Veterans Committee

RSL LifeCare Veteran Services

David Anderson, EGM Veteran Services

Close

DAY 2 – ANNUAL CONGRESS / AGM

Welcome

Chief of the Defence Force

General Angus Campbell AO, DSC

Catalogue of Services

Launch of the RSL Catalogue of Services

DVA Secretary's Forum

Elizabeth Cosson AM, CSC

Royal Commission Update

TBC

Break

ANZAC House Q and A

Jon Black, CEO and Leadership Team

Annual General Meeting 2022

Chair, Ray James OAM, GAICD, JP

President's Report

Ray James OAM, GAICD, JP

Financial and Audit Report

Nicole Hasrouni and PKF Auditors

Motions

Minutes from 2021 Annual State Congress

Register of Motions

Endorse Wording of Constitution

Annual Report & Financial Statement

Venue for next Annual State Congress & AGM

ANZAC House Motions

Veteran Policy Motions

Constitution Motions

Close

Notice of Annual Congress & Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Clause 8.11 of the RSL NSW Constitution, the Board gives notice that the Annual Congress and Annual General Meeting of The Returned & Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) will be held at Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (NEX), 309 King Street Newcastle, over two days on Monday, 31 October and Tuesday, 1 November 2022 both in-person and via remote access.

There are a number of items of business for consideration by Delegates. These include the approval of proposed amendments to the RSL NSW Constitution, motions submitted by sub-Branched and District Councils and the adoption of the financial statements and reports for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The Returning Officer appointed for the Annual General Meeting is Mr Jeff O'Brien, State Secretary.

For the purpose of Appendix B, clause 7(e) of the RSL NSW Constitution, Delegates have the right to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. A Delegate eligible but unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, for any reason, may appoint either the AGM Chair, an RSL NSW Director or their sub-Branch District Council Delegate as a proxy to vote on their behalf. The closing date for the appointment of proxies is Monday 24 October 2022. The Constitution requires a proxy appointment form to be submitted to the Returning Officer, Jeff O'Brien. Proxy appointment forms are available on the RSL NSW website: rslnsw.org.au/members-suite/congress/.

Items of Business

1. To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the proposed resolutions set out in Annexure A to the Notice of Meeting; and
2. To receive and consider the Financial Statements of RSL NSW and the reports of the Board and the Auditors in respect of the financial year ended 30 June 2022 set out in the Annual Report at Annexure B to the Notice of Meeting.

ANNEXURE A - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting (attached at Appendix A)

That Members adopt the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

2. Register of Motions (attached at Appendix B)

That Members note:

- a) the summary Register of Motions passed at the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021 Annual Congress and the status of their implementation; and that
- b) in accordance with the resolution passed by Members at the 2019 Congress, that an updated Register will be provided to members within two (2) calendar months of the conclusion of the 2022 AGM.

3. Endorse Wording of Constitution

That Members endorse the wording of amendments to the RSL NSW Constitution that were approved at the 2021 RSL NSW Annual General Meeting and came into effect on 1 January 2022.

4. Annual Report, Financial Statements and Auditors Reports

That Members:

- a) adopt the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for RSL NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2022; and
- b) note the Annual Report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2022 and that the Annual Report will be lodged with the Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney following the 2022 AGM.

5. Venue for Next Congress/AGM

That the venue for the next RSL NSW State Congress / Annual General Meeting conducted by way of in person attendance will be **Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, 309 King Street Newcastle West.**

6. ANZAC House Motions

6.1 ANZAC APP

Proposer – Castle Hill and District and Far Western Metro DC

That RSL NSW develop a free ANZAC APP for use by people who are unable to attend an ANZAC Dawn Service.

Supporting Argument

In 2020 ANZAC Dawn Services could not be held because of the Covid 19 pandemic. An APP strongly supported by RSL NSW was used across Australia for use in driveways of homes that allowed the nation to remember ANZAC. The success of this APP could be further utilised in NSW for ANZAC 2023 and beyond. There are large numbers of people who cannot get to an ANZAC Dawn Service for any number of reasons including:

- They are disabled;
- Live in remote areas where the nearest ANZAC Service is too far away to travel to; or
- There is no ANZAC Service in the town in which they live as the town may never have had one or the RSL sub-Branch has closed.

The APP should include background to ANZAC including coverage of the new generations of ANZACS, Last Post, Ode and Reveille.

The APP could be given to sub-Branches that can approve the use of it in their areas. There would need to be PR coverage prior to each ANZAC Day by State Branch that this APP is available from sub-Branches and the criteria for its use. This arrangement in sub-Branch areas would allow control over its use.

Early advice to the media on such an APP would ensure that RSL NSW is given the credit for it and its use.

6.2 Recruiting

Proposer – Castle Hill and District

That RSL NSW develop a plan to facilitate recruiting in NSW for new members.

Supporting Argument

Recruiting is vital if the RSL is to survive and, importantly, recruiting sufficient younger members who can fill the executive positions that will manage the RSL at all levels for the next twenty-five years is a must for the future. To wait any longer to tackle the declining and aging membership issues is unacceptable and the time to start recruiting is now or otherwise it will be too late. Recruiting large numbers of new members will not be easy as:

- There is strong competition from other ESOs seeking veterans as members;
- Defence personnel are mainly serving outside of NSW and many opt to retire or discharge in the vicinity of where they leave the Defence Force;
- The RSL does not offer what some other ESOs offer that attract younger veterans; and
- The RSL in NSW is not held in high regard by retiring and discharging Defence personnel.

Younger Veterans - Recently, the emphasis on recruiting RSL new members in NSW has been on recruiting contemporary veterans; however, no plan has been forthcoming. Few of them join RSL NSW and this is understandable as their priority is to establish themselves for their future outside of the Defence Force. Nevertheless, as many of them as possible should be recruited while those contemporary veterans that are not recruited must be convinced that the RSL is a worthwhile organisation to join at some time in the future. The recruiting plan should address this latter matter.

Other Veterans - Contemporary veterans are only a small percentage of personnel discharging or retiring from the Defence Force. Leaving the Defence Force annually there are about 6,000 personnel of all age groups. It is difficult to know how many of them either come to or stay in NSW as there is no information available on the numbers. Given the relatively small numbers of new RSL NSW members over the last ten years or so it is reasonable to assume that there could be significant numbers of veterans that could be recruited. During the last 20 years or so there have been two changes announced affecting service personnel that provided eligibility to join the RSL. There was little follow-up on them. Both announcements were important with the main one being that anyone who was serving or had served, Regular or Reservist, was a veteran. There are ex-service personnel who do not know that they are eligible to join the RSL and a recruiting plan must redress this situation.

Recruiting for the RSL needs to commence now. State Branch should develop a fully resourced, long term recruiting plan supported by a public relations' plan. It should also address the areas that adversely affect RSL NSW recruiting.

6.3 Service Badges

Proposer – Ingleburn

That RSL NSW request RSL National to seek permission from the Chief of the Defence Force for them, i.e., RSL National, to be the sole approver for RSL sub-Branched to use the Service Badges on Memorials, etc. instead of the individual Service Brand Managers.

Supporting Arguments

Currently the method of obtaining permission to use the badges is to approach the individual Service Brand Managers. This is unsatisfactory due to the length of time that it takes for them to respond. In many cases, months and after repeated requests.

It would be better suited if there was one point of contact in which to seek approval to use any or all of the Service Badges and in the case of sub-Branched, that would be RSL National.

7. Veteran Policy Motions

7.1 RSL as Peak Body

Proposer – Board

That the RSL is the lead ex-service organisation (ESO) ensuring the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide are implemented, in collaboration with other ESOs.

Supporting Argument

The Final Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is due 17 June 2024, with an Interim Report due 11 August 2022, and the possibility of others. Some or all of these reports are likely to contain recommendations for the Government, Defence, ESOs and the wider community to address the issue of Defence and Veteran Suicide. Given the past record of Governments implementing the recommendations of reports into veterans' issues over the past 20 years, an important function for ESOs/VSOs will be participating in and monitoring this implementation and holding Government to account for doing so.

The RSL has an extensive national network made up of 150,000 members, 1200 sub-Branched, and 105 years of history. The RSL is the biggest ESO, and the organisation has been the voice of and for veterans throughout its history. Given the crucial nature of getting the response to the Royal Commission right for the wellbeing of veterans and their families, the RSL must be a strong voice for the implementation of the recommendations of the Commissioners. The RSL should lead the response, working in collaboration with other ESOs, to ensure that Government is held to account for the full implementation of the recommendations. This should be emphasised to RSL National, and RSL NSW should support appropriate resources to support RSL National in this pursuit.

7.2 DVA Consultation with ESOs

Proposer – Board

That the RSL work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and other ESOs to ensure that DVA consults more effectively with ESOs, including through the implementation of adequate reporting, governance, and implementation processes.

Supporting Argument

DVA's current consultation with ESOs is ineffective at best, and a cynical exercise at worst – seen by many

ESOs as a box-ticking exercise. One of the most prominent recent examples was the engagement conducted during the McKinsey & Co. review of DVA claims processing.

DVA consultation cannot be limited to a short speaking slot during ESORT, which functions as a public service announcement forum for DVA, rather than a consultative forum for proper discussion of issues and with accountability for action. Where ESOs are asked to make submissions, timeframes for response are short and do not allow sufficient time for research, consideration, and internal consultation.

State-based Deputy Commissioner's Forums are ineffective, with no cut-through between DC Forums and ESORT, limited issues raised, and very few actions undertaken. For State-level ESOs that operate on a day-to-day basis independently of their national counterparts, this is their best avenue for raising issues to DVA. When it is ineffective, it is a wasted opportunity for both DVA and ESOs. This inefficacy is compounded by the fact there is little to no Officer-level to Officer-level communication between DVA and ESOs.

7.3 Homelessness

Proposer – Ourimbah-Lisarow

That RSL NSW prepare a business case for the Government, through the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, for addressing homelessness and the risks of homelessness within the Veteran Community by incorporating into law a statutory right to shelter and protection from homelessness, including an express statutory protection to acknowledge and manage the higher risk of veteran homelessness.

Supporting Argument

The achievement of a reduction in the proportion of recently transitioned veterans at risk of homelessness is likely to be achieved by express statutory recognition of the human right to shelter and the closely related need to formally recognise that homelessness and the risk of homelessness is almost three times as high in the veteran community as in the general community.

This express right is already part of Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (the **UDHR**) which provides that:

'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being [of themselves and their family], including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services ...'

In addition, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966* (the **Covenant**), which Australia has ratified, recognises:

'... the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living ... including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realisation of this right.'

Australia's current human rights and housing-related laws do not give complete statutory voice to the widely recognised right to shelter. Their practical effectiveness could be improved by formally recognising and systematically managing the uniquely high risk of homelessness faced by the veteran community.

7.4 Solar Panel Service

Proposer – City of Queanbeyan

That the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) implement and provide a Solar Panel maintenance service for eligible veterans.

Supporting Argument

Currently DVA offers general household packages to eligible veterans, for example, the gutter cleaning service.

With the publicity surrounding weather and climate change, households are being encouraged to adopt renewable power supplies. Solar panels are one of the tools being marketed.

A Solar panel maintenance service would be ideal for veterans considering such a move and would be welcomed by those who have already made the shift. For households, solar panels are normally placed on the occupant's roof. To work efficiently a maintenance regime would need to follow.

As such this motion proposes a solar maintenance service be implemented for those veterans who are eligible under similar guidelines to the gutter cleaning program.

7.5 Fund to Support Veterans at AAT Proposer – City of Sydney

That RSL NSW establish a funding mechanism to provide assistance to veteran's who have appeals before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and require financial assistance to produce specialist medical reports and pay for these medical specialists to appear at a Hearing where required.

Supporting Argument

The current appeal pathways for veterans under the VEA and MRCA is a request for review to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) made under s135 of the VEA and s352 of the MRCA. The Commission may, at their discretion, conduct an internal review of decisions under s31 of the VEA and s347 of the MRCA once a request for review has been lodged with the VRB. Under DRCA a request for an internal reconsideration may be made under s62 of DRCA.

The next step in the appeals process is an application to the Administration Appeals Tribunal (AAT). Under DRCA there is no pathway to the VRB. The next step from an internal reconsideration is an application to the AAT.

Both the VEA and MRCA have provisions for obtaining medical evidence in relation to a review by the VRB. s148(6A)(c) of the VEA provides for the Principle Member of the Board to, "*arrange for the making of any investigation or medical examination and to give to the Principal Member a report of the investigation or examination*". If there is no cost to the veteran. This section also applies to the MRCA through s353, Application of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986. Furthermore, s170A of the VEA provides for, "*The Commonwealth may, subject to this section, pay to an applicant for a review an amount to cover the medical expenses incurred by him or her in respect of relevant documentary medical evidence submitted to the Board for the purposes of the review*". The prescribed amount is currently \$1,000.00.

There are no similar provisions in either the VEA or MRCA regarding medical examinations and reports that may be required by the applicant in relation to an AAT appeal. It is standard operating procedure for the Commission to request the applicant to undergo medical, and other assessments by independent specialists, who are then called as expert witnesses at the hearing. In most cases it is necessary for the applicant to provide specialist opinion to counteract these independent specialists and, if required, to attend the hearing as an expert witness for the applicant. The cost of specialist medical reports can be \$1,000 plus depending on the complexity of the report. The cost for the specialist to attend a hearing can be \$500 plus per hour.

If a veteran is unable to afford these types of costs, it can severely limit their ability to present a fair and balanced case to the Tribunal.

7.6 Advice to Seek Advocate Support

Proposer – City of Sydney

That RSL NSW approach the Department of Veterans' Affairs to include a notice in the online MyService claims portal advising veterans to seek the assistance of a suitably qualified advocate prior to lodging their claim.

Supporting Argument

The current paper claim forms provided by DVA have the following advice on the forms:

- DVA Claim Form MRCA D2051. The front page of the form states “**Assistance from service and ex-service organisations** You are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from a service or ex-service organisation of your choice in lodging this claim. Contact telephone numbers for these organisations can be found in local telephone directories or by contacting the DVA office in your State”.
- DVA Claim Form VEA D2582. The front page of the form states “**Assistance from service and ex-service organisations** You are strongly encouraged to seek assistance from a service or ex-service organisation of your choice in lodging this claim. Contact telephone numbers for these organisations can be found in local telephone directories or by contacting the DVA office in your State”.

As an ATDP Level 4 Advocate, I am contacted by veterans to provide assistance with the appeals process in relation to their claims. In a lot of cases the veterans have lodged their claims without seeking the assistance of a qualified advocate. The majority of these veterans have lodged their claims via MyService. There is currently no advice or statement in MyService online claim form advising veterans to seek an advocate's advice as there is with the paper forms. I believe that veterans should be provided with this advice to enable them to make an informed decision as to the submission of their claims.

8. Constitution Motions

8.1 14.3 (d) & 21.1 DPC Role in SOP

Proposer – Board

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words:

- (a) “and/or approving amendments” from clause 14.3 (d); and
- (b) “and approved by” from clause 21.1

to read:

- 14.3 *The District Presidents' Council will represent sub-Branches and District Councils and will exercise the following functions and powers:*
- (d) *periodically reviewing the Standard Operating Procedures and proposing amendments ~~and/or approving amendments~~ to the Standard Operating Procedures; and*
- 21.1 *The Board may from time to time pass a resolution adopting or amending Policies and Standard Operating Procedures, provided however any adoption and any amendments to Standard Operating Procedures will be done in consultation with ~~and approved by~~ the District Presidents' Council.*

Supporting Argument

This amendment seeks to clarify the role of the District Presidents Council (DPC) with regard to Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The current provisions grant equal approval authority to two entities i.e. the Board and the DPC. From a practical perspective this is unworkable and has led to significant delays in having SOPs available for sub-Branch use e.g. Incorporation. The DPC, among other things, is constituted to provide collated

member feedback to the Board in relation to proposed amendments to the SOPs. If the amendment is adopted, this feedback function is consistent with the review and consultation process, giving the Board the final approving authority.

8.2 15.4 (ii) Auxiliary Member to Hold Office

Proposer – Board

That clause 15.4 (a) (ii) of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the word “or” between the words Service Member and Affiliate Member and adding the words “or Auxiliary Member” after Affiliate Member to read:

15.4 To be eligible to be approved as an RSL NSW sub-Branch, a sub-Branch must:

- (a) Form a sub-Branch executive committee comprising:*
- (ii) a Treasurer and a Secretary each of whom must be a Service Member, ~~or~~ Affiliate Member **or Auxiliary Member** (provided that one person may, if the sub-Branch decides, be appointed as both Treasurer and Secretary); and*

Supporting Argument

This amendment seeks to provide Auxiliary Members with the same opportunity to support sub-Branches by taking on the positions of Honorary Secretary and/or Treasurer of the sub-Branch. This reflects the experience that many Auxiliary Members have in administration and provides consistency across the classes of non-Service Membership. Many Auxiliary Members already support sub-Branches in unofficial roles such as minute takers, admin support or bookkeepers and this amendment will provide some official standing to these arrangements. It is also a step toward including the Auxiliary in the operations of a sub-Branch. This amendment does not affect the eligibility criteria for the positions of sub-Branch President, Delegate, Vice President and/or Trustee. These positions can only be filled by Service Members.

8.3 15.8 (e) Code of Conduct Breach

Proposer – Board

That clause 15.8 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new sub-clause “(e) in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure – sub-Branch Conduct Committee, have the authority to establish a Conduct Committee to manage breaches of the RSL NSW Code of Conduct at the sub-Branch.” to read:

- 15.8 The functions, duties and obligations of a sub-Branch are controlled and managed by the sub-Branch Executives and in the case of an incorporated sub-Branch the Board or management committee as the case may be who will:*
- (e) in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure – sub-Branch Conduct Committee, have the authority to establish a Conduct Committee to manage breaches of the RSL NSW Code of Conduct at the sub-Branch.*

Supporting Argument

In the pre-2019 Constitution and By-Laws, sub-Branches had the ability to manage local disciplinary issues through a formal process outlined in By-Law 4 without referral to the RSL NSW Tribunal. Given the adoption of the Code of Conduct, there is a need to allow sub-Branches to manage local breaches of the Code through a

similar process. This amendment makes it clear that the sub-Branch can establish a committee under the provisions set out in a new SOP called “sub-Branch Conduct Committee” to deal with a breach of the Code of

Conduct in their sub-Branch. The proposed SOP will outline:

- How a conduct committee is to be formed and administered.
- How a member is to be notified.
- Principles of procedural fairness.
- Managing outcomes of the conduct committee.
- Role of DC and process for review.

8.4 15.16 sub-Branch Notice of General Meeting

Proposer – Board

That clause 15.16 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words “in accordance with Appendix C” and replacing them with the words “**by giving no less than two weeks written notice to all members attached to the sub-Branch and**” to read:

*15.16 The sub-Branch Executives may call sub-Branch general meetings as and when required ~~in accordance with Appendix C~~ **by giving no less than two weeks written notice to all members attached to the sub-Branch and** provided that they must call sub-Branch general meetings at least quarterly, one of which must be an annual general meeting.*

Supporting Argument

Feedback from a number of sub-Branches has indicated that the current requirement to give 4 weeks’ notice for a sub-Branch general meeting is unworkable. By deleting the confusing reference to Appendix C, which mainly refers to an RSL NSW AGM, and setting the minimum notice period at 2 weeks, sub-Branches will be able to set a manageable meeting schedule. This will also ease the administrative burden on sub-Branch secretaries and allow for a reasonable timeframe when having to call extraordinary general meetings to deal with matters such as property dealings.

8.5 15.39 Due Date for Annual Returns

Proposer – Board

That clause 15.39 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the word “March” and replacing it with the word “May” to read:

*15.39 Each sub-Branch must, and will be in default of its obligation to comply with this Constitution if it does not, by 31 ~~March~~ **May** each year (unless agreed otherwise in writing by RSL NSW)*

Supporting Argument

When RSL NSW operated on a calendar year and Annual State Congress was in late May, it was essential that SBA forms were submitted in March. Now that RSL NSW operates on a financial year and the Congress/AGM is in late October, there is no need to maintain the March due date for submission of SBAs. Moving the due date to the end of May each year allows more flexibility for sub-Branches and is within the timeframe for them to finalise the SBA before registration opens for the AGM. It is also consistent with the timeframe needed to complete their Annual Information Statement with the ACNC (30 June) each year.

8.6 16.15 Attendance Requirement for RSL Custodian

Proposer – Board

That clause 16.15 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by inserting the sentence “**RSL Custodian,**

acting as either co-Trustee or sole Trustee for a sub-Branch, is exempt from the requirement to attend sub-Branch general meetings and the sub-Branch Annual General Meeting” after the sentence ending in the words “...calendar year” to read:

*16.15 Trustees must keep the sub-Branch Executives regularly and fully informed on all matters regarding sub-Branch Property held on trust and must attend at least three general meetings including the annual general meeting convened and held by the sub-Branch in a calendar year. **RSL Custodian, acting as either co-Trustee or sole Trustee for a sub-Branch, is exempt from the requirement to attend sub-Branch general meetings and the sub-Branch Annual General Meeting.** The appointment of an RSL NSW Member as a Trustee will not otherwise affect their rights and obligations as an RSL NSW Member.*

Supporting Argument

RSL Custodian is a corporate Trustee most commonly joined as co-Trustee with the three sub-Branch Trustees on Sale Proceeds Deeds i.e. the trust deed that results from the sale of sub-Branch real property. The meeting attendance and reporting requirements should be met by the three sub-Branch Trustees in this circumstance. Where RSL Custodian is the sole Trustee of a sub-Branch it is usually for the purposes of being on the title of sub-Branch real property such as a local hall or other land and building. Again, there is no requirement for RSL Custodian to attend sub-Branch meetings as the property is practically managed by the sub-Branch Executive. In either case, all investment reports, statements and/or property dealings will be done at the sub-Branch level, usually by the Executive acting on behalf of the members.

8.7 16.23 Removal of Trustee Proposer – Board

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words ‘Special Resolution’ and replacing them with the words ‘majority resolution’ in clause 16.23 to read:

*16.23 The Trustees jointly and severally recognise the right of the President as appointor, the sub-Branch by ~~Special Resolution~~ **majority resolution** and/or the Board to remove the Trustees (or any of them) from office at any time in accordance with the Constitution, and each of them agree to cooperate and act in accordance with any lawful or reasonable direction by the Board in the event of such removal.*

Supporting Argument

There is no reference in the *Trustee Act 1925* with regard to the process for removal of a Trustee as takes place in an RSL sub-Branch. In this circumstance, if a trust instrument has express terms outlining a power to remove a trustee, then this is valid and enforceable. The RSL NSW template trust deed states “trustees may, in accordance with the Constitution, be removed by the members of the sub-Branch or by RSL NSW or otherwise cease to hold office...”. This means that the RSL NSW Constitution needs to outline the process for removing a trustee however there is currently a contradiction between clauses 16.23 and 16.24 with regard to the appropriate resolution to remove a trustee. See the clauses copied below:

16.23 The Trustees jointly and severally recognise the right of the President as appointor, the sub-Branch by ~~Special Resolution~~ and/or the Board to remove the Trustees (or any of them) from office at any time in accordance with the Constitution, and each of them agree to cooperate and act in accordance with any lawful or reasonable direction by the Board in the event of such removal.

16.24 A Trustee may at any time be removed as Trustee by the President acting upon a majority resolution of the sub-Branch at a general meeting of the sub-Branch.

Given that sub-Branch trustees are elected by majority resolution of the members, the proposed motion seeks

to address the inconsistency and align the process for election and removal of Trustees.

8.8 **16.24 Removal of Trustee** **Proposer – Western Metro DC**

That Clause 16 Para 24 be removed in its entirety and that subsequent Paras be renumbered.

Supporting Argument

This clause is inconsistent with Clause 16 Para 23. Further it is untenable that a Trustee could so easily be removed. It is likely inconsistent with the Trustees Act 1927 and other parts of this Constitution. Further, the term “majority resolution” is confusing and remains undefined.

8.9 **Appendix A Definition of Code of Conduct** **Proposer – Board**

That the definition of Code of Conduct contained in Appendix A of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to read:

*Code of Conduct means the **RSL NSW** code of conduct for ~~Directors~~ **any RSL NSW Member or RSL NSW Officer** adopted from time to time ~~under clause 9.55~~.*

Supporting Argument

The current definition of the Code of Conduct is specific to the Board of RSL NSW. The Board has recently approved a Code of Conduct that is applicable to all members and officers of RSL NSW and as such the definition contained in Appendix A needs to be updated and amended. For clarity, the provisions of clause 9.55 of the RSL NSW Constitution, i.e. a Board Code of Conduct, will be met through the Code that was approved for all members and officers.

8.10 **Appendix A Definition of Veteran** **Proposer – Board**

That Appendix A of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by alphabetically adding a definition of Veteran to read:

Veteran has the same meaning as in the Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019 (Cth).

Supporting Argument

The RSL NSW Constitution currently does not contain a definition of veteran. The *Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019 (the Act)* received Royal Assent on 30 October 2019 and commenced on 31 October 2019. Contained within the Act is a broad definition of veteran which is consistent with RSL expectations:

“veteran” means a person who has served, or is serving, as a member of the Permanent Forces or as a member of the Reserves.

Permanent Forces and Reserves are defined in the *Defence Act 1903*.

Anchoring our definition of a veteran to the *Act* means RSL NSW will be consistent with the terminology used by the Australian Government and applies a consistent standard for matters relative to our Charitable purpose.

8.11 Clause 3 & Appendix A Definition of Veteran Proposer – Far Western Metro DC

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to define Veteran to include Veterans of Allies by amending:

- (a) Clauses 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5(b), 3.5(c) and 3.5(d) from “current and former members of the Australian Defence Force” in to “veterans”; and
- (b) Appendix A to include:
Veteran means:
- (a) a ‘veteran’ within the meaning of the Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019; or
- (b) a person who has served, or is serving, as a member of the Armed Forces of:
- (i) any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;
 - (ii) any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;
 - (iii) the United States of America; or
- (c) a person to whom sub-paragraph (b) above does not apply, but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:
- (i) either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Force or the Armed Forces of those countries or places referred to in paragraph (b) above; or
 - (ii) served as a member of the Armed Forces of another country or place which, during that time of conflict, was an ally of the Commonwealth.

Supporting Argument

This was not adequately explained during the Constitution Consultation Process prior to approval. Using the *Veterans from the Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019* as a total definition of Veterans is short-sighted as the Act is a Commonwealth Act and cannot apply to veterans of other countries unless the Act was re-worded to include citizens or permanent residents who were allies. However, the Act was intended to help ADF veterans (DVA clients) due to the recent poor treatment of ADF Veterans. There is no reason why we cannot treat allied veterans as part of our charitable purpose as we have for the previous 100 years. Our Organisation has always included allied forces as without them we would never have won any war. We have many allied servicemen who have served our organisation and have been awarded life membership. Fortunately, our ADF members have DVA to fall back on.

Our allied veterans have nothing to fall back on as DVA does not cover them. We could be a bit hospitable to those who risked their lives beside ADF members and help them with a cup of tea and a fruit basket when they are in hospital. It is hoped that it was not intentional to strip allied veterans of any assistance through our Charitable Purpose.

8.12 Appendix B 15 (c), 16 & 18 Membership Minimum Age Proposer – Board

That Appendix B – Membership of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by deleting the words “...over 17 years of age” in clause 15 (c) and adding new clauses 16 and 18 with the relevant renumbering to read:

15 (c) a Cadet and/or Officer of Cadets ~~over 17 years of age~~;

NEW 16. To be eligible to be an Affiliate Member in any of the categories in clause 15 above, a person must be at least 18 years of age.

NEW 18. To be eligible to be an Auxiliary Member a person must be at least 18 years of age.

Supporting Argument

This amendment sets a minimum age for all RSL NSW membership categories and applies consistent wording across the three categories of membership. Currently, as per the RSL NSW Constitution, a Service Member must be at least 18 years of age, and an Affiliate Member who is a Cadet and/or Officer of Cadets must be over 17 years of age. There is no set minimum age for Auxiliary Members or Affiliate Members, outside the cadet category, contained within the RSL NSW Constitution. It has been assumed that RSL NSW is an organisation that caters for adults and there is no provision for how minors are cared for or managed within our document framework. RSL NSW cannot, in good faith, accept applications from children or their parent/guardian without the appropriate policies, procedures, and controls in place to manage our obligations under the [Privacy Act 1988](#), [Charitable Fundraising Guidelines](#), and [Working With Children legislation](#). This includes how a member under the age of 18 would be supervised at sub-Branch events and fundraising activities. This amendment seeks to formalise the expectation that all members of RSL NSW are adults over the age of 18.

(**NOTE:** Delegates are to consider agenda items 8.13 and 8.14 together as they both seek to amend clause 9.8 but within separate sub-clauses. If both motions are approved 9.8 (a) and 9.8 (b) will contain similar wording).

8.13 9.8 (b) Eligibility to be Elected Director Proposer – Western Metro DC

That clause 9.8 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new item (b) to read “(b) must have been a Service Member of RSL NSW for at least three (3) years or have filled a Board Vacancy for at least one (1) year.” with subsequent items in clause 9.8 to be renumbered.

Supporting Argument

This is not to reflect on the previous appointments to fill casual Board vacancies and in fact makes provision for Elected Directors currently filling casual vacancies to be exempted from this provision. That said, there was widespread dismay across the Membership when it was discovered that the recent appointments were signed up as Service Members to facilitate a Constitutional requirement rather than the spirit of it (the Constitution). It is expected that Service Members elected to the board are there to reflect a full and complete knowledge of the functioning of sub-Branches and District Councils their operations and aspirations. These expectations are difficult to attain unless the conditions of previous tenure imposed by this amendment are met.

8.14 9.8 (a) Board Director Experience Proposer – Far Western Metro DC

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the eligibility to be an Elected Director by amending clause 9.8(a) to read:

(a) *be a Service Member with at least three years of service in the RSL;*

Supporting Argument

As a grassroots charitable organisation led by its volunteers, this motion recognises the importance of Board members to understand the ethos and processes in RSL NSW. It is not an unreasonable expectation that Elected Board members have some experience in the organisation. Three years allows a member to fully experience our organisation's services and commemorations. This motion also removes the requirement for an age minimum for Directors as it would be impossible for a Service Member with three years' experience to be under 18 years of age.

8.15 **9.23 Elected Director Vacancy** **Proposer – Western Metro DC**

That Clause 9.23 be amended to read as follows:

9.23 The Board will fill a vacancy created under clause 9.22 by:

- (a) *if available, appointing a member from the list of unsuccessful candidates from the previous ballot. The order of selection will be in accordance with the number of votes received; or if unavailable*
- (b) *the Board may appoint any person eligible to be an Elected Director under clauses 9.8 to 9.10 of this Constitution. The appointment must be approved by a simple majority of a meeting of the District Presidents Council.*

The person appointed to fill the Casual Vacancy will hold office until the expiry of the term of the Elected Director creating the vacancy.

Supporting Argument

The ability to fill a vacancy using the provisions in the proposed 9.23(a) seems to put things in their natural order. There are the advantages that the Candidates eligibility is already established and the need for DPC approval is voided. The process is simplified as no search is required to find a suitable candidate and the candidates are known having already placed themselves before the membership.

8.16 **15.56 sub-Branch Property Dealings** **Proposer – Western Metro DC & Far Western Metropolitan DC**

That clause 15.56 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by:

- (a) deleting “\$5,000” and replacing it with “\$10,000” and deleting “\$50,000” and replacing it with “\$100,000” in section (a);
 - (b) deleting “\$20,000” and replacing it with “\$50,000” and deleting “\$50,000” and replacing it with “\$100,000” in section (b); and
 - (c) deleting “\$5,000” and replacing it with “\$10,000” in section (c)
- to read:

15.56 The Trustees and sub-Branches must not:

- (a) make a donation or gift of ~~\$5,000~~ **\$10,000** or more and may not make donations or gifts totalling ~~\$50,000~~ **\$100,000** or more in any one calendar year;*
- (b) incur an expense of ~~\$20,000~~ **\$50,000** or more on any single item, activity or event and may not incur expenses totalling ~~\$50,000~~ **\$100,000** or more in any one calendar year;*
- (c) lend to any person or body or invest money totalling ~~\$5,000~~ **\$10,000** or more in any one calendar year (except in investments authorised by the terms of any trust deed relating to such money), without the prior written consent of the Board or its Delegate.*

Supporting Argument

(Western Metro DC) The limits of sub-Branch delegation in relation to donations and expenditure on single items were set some years ago and require updating by way of an increase. It further reduces the administrative requirements placed on both sub-Branches and ANZAC House in seeking/providing approvals.

(Far Western Metro DC) The current limits are too low in today's world. The limits were set many years ago and need to be raised to a more reasonable level.

8.17 **15.53 Property** **Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That NSW RSL State Branch amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the directions on sub-Branch Property Dealings by:

Amending Clause 15.53 to add “real estate” before each mention of “Property”;

Supporting Argument

The current limits are too low in today’s world. The limits were set many years ago and need to be raised to a more reasonable level.

8.18 **15.55 & 15.57 Funding Limits** **Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That NSW RSL State Branch amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the directions on sub-Branch Property Dealings by:

Amending clause 15.55, and 15.57 to change all references to “\$5,000” to “\$10,000”.

Supporting Argument

The current limits are too low in today’s world. The limits were set many years ago and need to be raised to a more reasonable level.

8.19 **13.5 & 15.48 Affiliate as Delegate** **Proposer – Mascot**

That clauses 13.5 and 15.48 of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to allow Affiliate Members to be delegates, by adding the sentence “***When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated***” to read:

- (a) 13.5 *The District Council Delegate and any Alternate District Council Delegates must be Service Members attached to the sub-Branch. **When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated.***
- (b) 15.48 *A sub-Branch, provided it has complied with all its obligations, duties and responsibilities under this Constitution, is entitled to appoint one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to attend the Annual General Meeting, Congress and any General Meeting. **When a sub-Branch cannot find a Service Member to fill the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate an Affiliate Member attached to the sub-Branch can be nominated.***

Supporting Argument

At our meeting held 1 August 2022, we discussed and voted to put forward a motion for State Congress to consider that the Constitution be amended so that Delegates representing their sub-Branch could either be a Service Member or an Affiliate Member.

Having just lost a valued member of our sub-Branch, who was our District Council Delegate and Congress

Delegate for many years, we now find ourselves unable to fill those positions with a Service Member.

We feel consideration should be given to the amendments we propose as I am sure plenty of other sub-Branches will find themselves in this same position in due course, being unable to fill Delegate positions with a Service Member.

(**NOTE:** motions 8.20 and 8.21 seek to amend the same clause. If both motions are approved by Special Resolution, the motion that was approved last will be the motion adopted for inclusion in the RSL NSW Constitution)

8.20 9.6 President as Chair
Proposer – Corrimal

That clause 9.6 of the RSL NSW Constitution be replaced with the following clause:

9.6 The Chair of the Board will be the President of RSL NSW.

Supporting Argument

Currently, the Chair of the Board of RSL NSW is a non-service member who is an Independent Director. This is the same for RSL National. Whilst another Service Member Director can be the Chair of the RSL NSW Board, this is not the current position.

The President can be elected Chair as per the current clause 9.6, however this has not occurred so far. Having a President and a different Chair creates confusion and may result in difficulties with the Governance and functions of the Board. It also creates problems with the Executive of RSL NSW (Staff); who is ultimately responsible and where does the “buck stop”?

RSL NSW is a member-based organisation where the President, a Service Member, has always represented the membership. This clause needs to be amended to ensure that the position of President is reinstated and respected by the organisation. Having two “leaders” is confusing and undermines the position of President.

The current clause for voting for Chair excludes the members from the vote. As it's the Directors who decide to appoint a Chair. This undermines the democratic nature of the League and undermines the members rights and powers. We the members should be the ones that decide who represents us.

8.21 9.6 Board Chair Eligibility
Proposer – Far Western Metro DC

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the appointment of the Board Chairman by amending clause 9.6 to read:

“The Board must also appoint one Director, who may be the President or any other elected Director, to be the Chair.”

Supporting Argument

As a grassroots charitable organisation led by its volunteers, it was not considered that our Board would not have adequately talented and experienced elected Directors to fill the role of Chair of the Board. This concept was not taken into account by Congress as to whether an Independent Director could be appointed Chair. This possibility was not adequately explained during the Constitution Consultation Process prior to approval. Without any reflection on the integrity, experience, and value of our current Chair, we believe that the Chair should be a

Service Member of RSL NSW.

8.22 9.9 (c) and 9.10 Director's Term

Proposer – Corrimal

That the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to remove the following clauses:

9.9 (c) subject to clause 9.10, have previously held office as a State Councillor or Director for a cumulative period of more than nine years (either continuously or in separate periods) after the first date of election as a State Councillor or Director;

9.10 An Elected Director who has previously held office as a State Councillor or Director for a cumulative period of nine years or more (either continuously or in separate periods) after their first date of election, is eligible, notwithstanding clause 9.9(c), to stand and be elected if a continuous period of at least five years has lapsed from the date they last ceased to hold office.

Supporting Argument

The current clauses prohibit Directors who serve nine years on the Board of RSL NSW to then run for President unless they mark time for five years. This is not optimal use of human resources.

If you have a Director elected at 55 years of age and they do nine years, then they will have to wait for five years before they can nominate for a board position again, making them 69 years of age. No offence to members who are 69 and over.

These clauses were introduced to prevent previous State Councillors from running for the Board. For the first time Directors are now democratically elected by individual service members. This means that the members decide who should be their representatives. It should be the members who decide if a person is no longer suitable to be on the Board.

For example: A newly elected director without any previous experience at state level needs a couple of years if not more to become an effective member and an asset to the board. Just like an apprentice needs four years before becoming trade qualified.

It takes even longer to develop a good name and reputation, contacts, skill set, expertise and experience to be considered competitive for the President's position.

By placing a blanket ban of no more than nine years on the board seriously affects the quality of the person by not allowing them to serve for more years.

There is also a risk that if a number of Directors are all elected in the same year, then they would all have to leave the Board at the same time once they have completed nine years. This is an unacceptable drain with a huge impact on Board continuity and experience.

8.23 Appendix C 12 Meetings – Technical Difficulties

Proposer – Far Western Metro DC

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify responses if technical difficulties arise during a General Meeting held at two or more places by amending Clause 12 of Appendix C to read;

“If, either before or during the meeting, any technical difficulty causes one or more of the matters set out in clause 9 of this Appendix to be not satisfied, the Chair will adjourn the meeting until the difficulty is remedied.”

Supporting Argument

This was not adequately explained during the Constitution Consultation Process prior to approval. This change precludes delegates not present with the president to miss out on debate. If technical difficulties arise, the meeting should be adjourned. Delegates are present to report the business of the meeting to their sub-Branches. All information at a general meeting needs to be heard by all delegates. There should never be a time when members may not object to a decision by the Chair. If this is the case, then we should not allow meetings at different locations. This change would delete the sub-Clauses within Clause 12.

8.24 **Appendix C 27 Voting on Resolutions – Electronic Voting** **Proposer – Far Western Metro DC**

That RSL NSW amend the State Constitution by 31 December 2022 to clarify the rules of voting at a general meeting by amending clause 27 of Appendix C to read:

“Voting on resolutions and motions will take place at the meeting by electronic voting mechanisms, if available. If not available, voting will be by either:

- (a) a show of hands; or
- (b) a poll.

at the Chair’s discretion.”

Supporting Argument

Electronic voting has been utilised very successfully and should be the standard that we use.

8.25 **Appendix B 6 ANZAC House membership** **Proposer – Forster-Tuncurry**

That Clause 6 of the RSL NSW Constitution Appendix B be amended to read as follows:

- 6. *New members will be admitted and entered into the Membership Register by RSL NSW and recorded as being attached to ANZAC House through which the application was made and accepted, or to ANZAC House where the application was made with a request to be admitted as a member attached to ANZAC House.*

Supporting Argument

With the introduction of On-Line membership applications which are submitted direct to ANZAC House as “ANZAC House *through which the application was made and accepted*,” who then forwards the particulars to the nominated sub-Branch.

8.26 **Appendix B new Online Membership Applications** **Proposer – Forster-Tuncurry**

That Appendix B of the RSL NSW Constitution be amended by adding new clauses after clause 8 to cover online membership applications to read:

- (a) a new heading ***On-Line Membership Applications***

(b) new clause 9. *Where an application for membership is made on-line the applicant is applying to join ANZAC House unless another sub-Branch is nominated in which case ANZAC House would refer the application to the nominated sub-Branch.*

(c) new clause 10. *The nominated sub-Branch once advised by ANZAC House, would endeavour to contact the applicant by email or telephone and advise the applicant that the application to join the nominated sub-Branch is provisional for a period of three (3) months pending the applicant contacting the sub-Branch to finalise the application.*

(d) new clause 11. *If the applicant agrees to new clause 10, the nominated sub-Branch would advise ANZAC House if the applicant is accepted. Following which:*

- a. *ANZAC House would arrange for the members Card and Badge to be forwarded to the nominated sub-Branch for presentation to the member; or*
- b. *Should the member fail to make contact with the nominated sub-Branch within 3 months the nominated sub-Branch would refer the members file to ANZAC House where the application was first made for their dealing.*

Supporting Argument

On-Line membership has been in operation for 2022 membership without RSL NSW implementing a proper procedure to deal with the On-Line process.

The new procedures consideration is to be given to compliance with Clause 8.6 of the constitution relating to Contracts between the members and the sub-Branch.

As RSL NSW offers Free Membership as per (Circular 42/21) The RSL NSW Board resolved on 27 September that membership for 2022 would be free. The Strategic Plan initiative (1.4) is coupled with other Goal 3 initiatives including the capability for people to be able to instantly join the RSL in NSW online and be immediately allocated to a sub-Branch of their choosing.

Strategic Plan dated 2021 - 2026 initiative (1.4) states "free membership from 2022".

Prior to the application being forwarded to the nominated sub-Branch, ANZAC House has already confirmed acceptance of the application prior to contacting the nominated sub-Branch.

The nominated sub-Branch as per Clause 1 (b) of Appendix B which states:

"providing all necessary documents to the sub-Branch or ANZAC House to establish eligibility for membership in the particular class of membership in which membership is sought as set out in clause 8.2 of the Constitution."

The application cannot be finalised until the applicant's details have been confirmed by the nominated sub-Branch.

- a. The current procedure adopted by ANZAC House is to forward to the nominated sub-Branch a three (3) page document which may or may not contain all the information requested on the paper Application Form and as such the sub-Branch may require the applicant to sign a completed new membership form or provide additional information.
- b. The application does not contain a declaration relating to indictable offence, citizenship and loyalty to the sovereign.
- c. The application does not contain Proof of Service which is a requirement under the RSL NSW Constitution Appendix B Clause 1 (b).
- d. The application Declaration "The information provided is true and correct" is misleading as the applicant has not provided proof of service. Furthermore, State Branch take the application on face value.
- e. The three (3) page document has a further declaration "*I agree to give RSL NSW permission to use the information I have provided to contact and send me relevant information.*" This declaration is not on the on-line application.

The sub-Branch Executive are of the opinion that if a person wishes to join an organisation that the person, if they are fair dinkum would try to make contact with that organisation regarding their membership by answering telephone calls or emails.

If they do not then the sub-Branch is left with no other alternative than to refer the application back to ANZAC House who accepted the application without question in the first place.

The average cost to the sub-Branch is dependent on its membership, with Forster-Tuncurry the cost would be about \$18.00 per year which includes Members Insurance, Affiliation Fees to District Council and Postage.

ANNEXURE B – ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Respecting, supporting, and
remembering our veterans
and their families.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22 Financial Year

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Introduction

The Returned & Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ABN: 78 368 138 161 (RSL NSW) is incorporated under an Act of NSW Parliament – RSL NSW Act 2018 (NSW) No. 48 (Act).

RSL NSW is a charity, the purpose of which is to respect, support and remember veterans and their families. It performs its work with a commitment to good governance, accountability to members and transparency.

In the 2021/22 Financial Year, sub-Branches provided countless hours of volunteer support to veterans and their families in NSW. In addition, RSL NSW sub-Branches and other donors, provided over \$3.1 million to enable its partner charity and related entity RSL LifeCare to:

- Provide \$825,872 in financial assistance, supporting essential services for veterans and their families.
- Provide \$485,000 in disaster assistance.
- Assist 177 veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Help 944 veterans to lodge 3,106 DVA claims.
- Facilitated 57 veterans or partners receiving assistance from the RSL Veterans' Employment Program.
- Make 231 virtual or socially distanced visits to veterans and family members at homes, hospitals or nursing homes.
- Lodge 188 new VRB appeals, complete 276 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions and represent 39 full VRB Board Hearings.
- Guide 60 veterans through horse handling and riding courses.

As at 30 June 2022 RSL NSW had 326 sub-Branches throughout NSW and had 26,322 members.

Aside from its sub-Branches, the RSL NSW Family in 2021/2022 included:

- Anzac House Trust
- RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (known as AFOF)
- RSL Custodian Pty Ltd
- RSL LifeCare
- RSL NSW Auxiliaries
- RSL Youth Clubs
- RSL Day Clubs

More information can be found on the RSL NSW website - www.rslnsw.org.au.

President's Report

Ray James OAM, GAICD, JP

The fundamental objective of the RSL is to promote the interest and welfare of serving and ex-serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families. I am proud to reflect on the last twelve months and our achievements as we ensure that our sub-Branches and services are accessible and that our members are visible in our communities.

On average, RSL NSW members supported their mates by dedicating over 450,000 voluntary hours to deliver welfare and pension activities, commemorative events, fundraising, and the administration of the sub-Branch network across the State.

Remembrance Day marked the first commemoration of its kind since Australia's withdrawal from Afghanistan and I was honoured to be joined by veterans of that conflict, and Iraq, at the official NSW service in Martin Place. On ANZAC Day, I marched alongside veterans of Middle East Operations whom I invited to join me at the front of the parade, acknowledging their significant service and sacrifice.

It has been a challenging year for some veterans and their families as the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide was announced. The response from the RSL has been national and unified, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the issues examined at the Royal Commission are addressed. The RSL has been present at all hearing blocks and RSL NSW established an Office for the Royal Commission to support veterans in their engagement with the Commission.

In September 2021 RSL NSW relaunched its membership magazine, Reveille. With a renewed focus on ensuring that its content is reaching the wider veteran community and connecting them with the services and support available to them and their families.

September 2021 also marked the introduction of free, online membership and by May 2022, more members had joined than the total number of new members that joined in 2021. While we're seeing significant new membership numbers, we're also seeing demographic changes. Since the introduction of the online membership process, the average age of new members has been reduced by more than six years.

In line with the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026 RSL sub-Branches have embraced the concept of collaboration. Together with the ANZAC and Poppy Appeal fundraising undertaken by RSL NSW, our sub-Branches collectively donated \$3.1 million to our partner charity, RSL LifeCare Ltd to support the ongoing delivery of vital support services for veterans, including physical and mental wellbeing, claims and advocacy, education and employment and housing, as well as strengthening regional support through our Veteran Wellbeing Centres in Nowra and Wagga Wagga. The donation represents a 40% increase YOY.

This extends to the plans in place to attend ADF Transition Seminars across NSW. These seminars present a critical opportunity for us to connect with current serving members and communicate how the League can offer mateship and camaraderie, employment services and advocacy now and into the future.

I am proud to watch the League working together and taking action at a state and national level. This level of collaboration is building a robust organisation that will be around for generations to come.

Chair's Report

Sophie Ray GDLS, BA (Hons), LLB (Hons), FAICD

The 2021/2022 Financial Year has been a year of consolidation and strong strategic focus for the RSL NSW Board. After several years of working with members and the ANZAC House team to build solid foundations for the future of RSL NSW, the Board is now confident that those foundations are established and delighted that the results of that work are now becoming evident. In particular, the Board has been pleased to see the growing membership numbers, the contribution of sub-Branches to the Veteran Support Fund and their engagement in the pooled funding model, and the increasing policy and advocacy work generated by the Veterans Services and Policy Committee and the Young Veterans' Committee.

This year, the Board has focussed particularly on monitoring the progress of the initiatives of the RSL NSW Strategic Plan, including the development of internal policy and Standard Operating Procedures and training for members, with feedback from the District Presidents' Council and members. In February 2022, all Board members joined the RSL NSW Executive Leadership Team in a strategy and risk workshop, to review the current strategy and update the risk profile for RSL NSW.

The Board has also regularly reviewed the financial position of RSL NSW, including the engagement of sub-Branches with the 'Pooled' Funding Model including the Aggregated Investment Management service and the Veteran Support Fund; the progress of the sale of the Hyde Park Inn, and the strategic development of alternate income sources. This development has included discussions with RSL Queensland about the proceeds from the RSL Art Union, signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with ClubsNSW and the RSL & Services Clubs Association, and approving the establishment of an RSL NSW Fundraising Committee which will be formed and start work in early 2023.

In early 2022, the Board established the Young Veterans' Committee to provide advice on issues affecting veterans of recent conflicts. The Board is very grateful for the Committee's insights and hard work. The Board also thanks the members of the District Presidents' Council for their ongoing work and input on Board matters. The Board has met twice with the Council and values the robust feedback and frank views expressed by the DPC members at those meetings.

The Board has also worked closely this year with the Board of RSL LifeCare to ensure that the strategic directions of both organisations are aligned, and that communications and branding send a coherent message about the work the two organisations do to support veterans and their families while respecting the independence of each organisation.

During 2021/22, the Board has met bi-monthly, alternating between online and in-person meetings. This is a change from the previous practice of monthly meetings in person in Sydney and reflects not only the Board's continuing focus on acting strategically rather than operationally but also its wish to create a more diverse Board, with more Directors from regional and rural areas.

During 2021/22, the three-year term of both Independent Directors came to an end, with David Bell choosing not to nominate for a further term. The Board thanked him for his significant input and commitment to RSL NSW during a time of change. The Nominations and Remuneration Committee, led by RSL NSW Deputy Chair John Hutcheson, undertook an external recruitment process to fill the Independent Director roles, using an independent

Chair's Report (cont.)

Sophie Ray GDLS, BA (Hons), LLB (Hons), FAICD

agency and conducting a skills and experience audit in consultation with the Board. In accordance with the RSL NSW Constitution, I chose to nominate as a candidate for a further three-year term and undertook the same selection process as all other candidates and did not participate in any Board discussion or decision-making about the Independent Director recruitment. I was humbled to be reappointed and delighted to welcome Dr Jim Hungerford, an experienced Non-Executive Director and CEO, to the Board as the other Independent Director.

The Board granted the CEO, Jon Black, a period of extended leave, in June and July this year, and welcomed Scott Warr as Acting CEO. Mr Warr worked closely with the RSL NSW President and I to lead the strategic and operational work of the ANZAC House team. The Board is extremely grateful to Mr Warr for his hard work and steady hand during that time.

Throughout the year, Directors of the Board have continued to sit on and chair a range of Board and other committees. These include the Audit & Risk Committee, Nominations & Remuneration Committee, Veterans' Services and Policy Committee, the Selections Committee, the Congress Agenda Committee, the RSL National Diversity Committee, RSL Custodian, the ANZAC House Trust, AFOF, and the RSL NSW and RSL LifeCare Joint Working Group. The Directors have also attended numerous commemorations, and meetings with other ex-service organisations and District Councils, and represented the RSL NSW President when requested to do so.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my huge thanks to our CEO, Jon Black, the RSL NSW Executive Leadership Team and the broader ANZAC House team for their tireless work over the course of the last year. The results we are now beginning to see are in large part due to their efforts. I give my gratitude to our President, Ray James, for his ongoing leadership and dedication to RSL NSW, and to my fellow Directors for their collegiality, commitment, and considered contributions, even at times when difficult decisions must be made.

Finally, the Board thanks all members who have contributed to the success of RSL NSW this year – whether volunteering their time to support veterans in their community, taking on a role within their sub-Branch or District Executives, or in other capacities. You are the heart of RSL NSW and your willingness to embrace change and consider what is best for the wider veteran community is what will continue to ensure support for veterans and their families into the future.

CEO's Report

Jonathan (Jon) Black CSC, GAICD

This reporting period coincides with one of the most challenging periods for the RSL in NSW. Not just because of the ongoing challenges to reform to be relevant and strong for the future, but because of the compounding testing of our charity during and after the once in a generation pandemic.

I am so proud of the way our League stood tall in the face of the pandemic, and reflecting now, how we managed to 'get on with it' despite the challenges. So, as Ray has said we continued to deliver what we do best across our communities, mateship and camaraderie as well as other support services. Moreover, by starting to work together as our Vision seeks, our service delivery charity RSL LifeCare Veteran Services received over \$3.1 m in donations and is standing tall delivering quality services to veterans and their families in need.

ANZAC House is the administrative core of the League in New South Wales, overseeing and supporting the operations of 330 RSL NSW sub-Branches and Chapters across the State. ANZAC House, is comprised of a small team of 20 dedicated staff providing administrative and other support to RSL NSW sub-Branches and members, including in areas of compliance, training, membership, finance, communications and marketing, and coordinating large-scale commemorations and events.

At the last face-to-face State Congress (2019), the Delegates who represented sub-Branches from across the State agreed on the following key issues that needed to be addressed by the RSL NSW Strategic Plan 2021-2026 to ensure that the League in NSW is successful, sustainable, and relevant in the future:

- Ageing membership (average membership age in 2019 was 78)
- Brand confusion with licensed clubs using the RSL or services-related names
- Relevance to younger veterans
- Proliferation of service providers/charities

As stated above, despite the pandemic ANZAC House has established a small Program Management Office (PMO) with four project managers (counted separately from ANZAC House) to get on and deliver the initiatives in the Strategic Plan which sets a vision for the future and addresses the concerns identified by delegates in 2019. While the pandemic has had some impact on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the PMO is now delivering on the many initiatives of the Plan. Some examples of actions that have been taken to achieve the vision so far include:

- Goal 1: District Support Officer Pilot commenced in the Riverina and Western District Council Region.
- Goal 2: Launch of new-look print and online Reveille, production of RSL NSW Brand Guidelines, Communications & Marketing Plan, and coordinated presence at NSW-based Australian Defence Force Transition Seminars.
- Goal 3: Free, online membership and RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program Pilot.

CEO's Report (cont.)

Jonathan (Jon) Black CSC, GAICD

- Goal 4: Investment in the establishment of a Catalogue of Services (to be called 'Veteran Connect') for veterans and their families; roll-out of network of Veteran Wellbeing Centres.
- Goal 5: Launch of Part 1 of the funding model, The Aggregated Investment Management Service, Commencement of Part 2, the Veteran Support Fund, launch of Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) tool, also known as the sub-Branch Portal, Compliance Reporting preparation phase, sub-Branch Executive Training, and establishment of new temporary head office facilities, and completed, ready for implementation consultation, and District Rationalisation Project.
- Goal 6: Consistent national commemoration protocol guidelines (sent to National for approval).

With respect to Veteran Wellbeing Centres, The Nowra centre is operating in temporary facilities while the new purpose-built facility is completed (due October 2022); the Riverina centre is also operating out of temporary facilities, and there are two further imminent centres in Sydney CBD and SW Sydney. Importantly though, plans are well established to network in other centres across the State; seeking to take advantage of the new Federal Government's 'Veteran and Family Hub' grant programs through compelling applications. Each centre takes advantage of investments already made in support and sustainment systems and training of full-time staff in our partner charity RSL LifeCare. This is part of the future of the RSL in NSW, and in doing so the RSL continues to work with other ESOs who wish to participate with the RSL in developing their services from the Centres.

As our Strategic Plan intends, if our sub-Branches continue delivering their services locally and work together strategically, we will become stronger, relevant and attractive to new members. With a sustained effort and ongoing investment in our future we will achieve our vision.

None of this work would be possible without the extraordinary dedication and commitment by the ANZAC House team and army of volunteers across the State. It is an extraordinary privilege to lead such a committed team at ANZAC House, and all the achievements, including our strong financial position, would not be possible without them. I also acknowledge and thank our volunteer directors who have provided strong and sustained strategic leadership and support to the staff and the entire League of volunteers.

How RSL NSW is delivering on its charitable purpose

<p>Providing assistance, care and relief for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families who are suffering from physical or mental ill health, social disadvantage and isolation, distress, poverty, homelessness or destitution including without limitation those who are elderly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSL NSW member volunteer hours: 453,195 • DVA claim advocacy services volunteer hours: 101,296 • DVA compensation claim services volunteer hours: 86,112 • Wellbeing advocacy services volunteer hours: 15,184 • RSL NSW Liaison Officer at National Centre for Veterans' Healthcare: over 100 support cases • Advocacy of veteran issues through Veteran Services and Policy Committee, NVAC, ESORT, and DC Consultative Forum. <p>Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Provisional Access to Medical Treatment (PAMT) program • Push for all Reservists to be covered by non-liability healthcare provisions • Joined with ADFRA to advocate on behalf of veterans covered by the DFRDB • Advocating for additional advocate mentors under ATDP
<p>Providing support and assistance for current and former members of the Australian Defence Force and their families including without limitation to obtain compensation, benefits and assistance to which they are entitled and in relation to all aspects of transitioning from military service to civilian life, particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service.</p>	<p>RSL NSW sub-Branches donated \$3.1 million to RSL LifeCare Veteran Services to deliver the following services and support to veterans and their families during FY21/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided \$825,872 in financial assistance including \$485,000 in disaster assistance • Assisted 177 veterans experiencing homelessness • Helped 944 veterans to lodge 3106 DVA claims

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated 57 veterans or partners receiving assistance from the RSL Veterans' Employment Program Made 231 virtual or socially distanced visits to veterans and family members at homes, hospitals or nursing homes, in support of sub-Branch volunteers Lodged 188 new VRB appeals, complete 276 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mediation discussions and represent 39 full VRB Board Hearings Guided 60 veterans through horse handling and riding courses RSL Auxiliaries fundraising activities to support veterans and their families RSL Auxiliaries 'Thank you for Your Service Quilts' to recognise service.
Providing validation of service and sacrifice by commemorating those who have served and preserving the memory of those who have suffered and died.	<p>ANZAC House provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 services supported with Cenotaph attendants (noting the cancellation of services due to Public Health Orders) 5 commemorations conducted directly or indirectly by ANZAC House <p>Coordination and implementation of state-wide commemorations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANZAC Day Remembrance Day Vietnam Veterans' Day 80th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore Victory in the Pacific Day Battle for Australia <p>RSL NSW representation on the State War Memorial Fund</p>
Promoting and facilitating the prevention of social isolation as a cause of veteran ill health by fostering and enabling community engagement, social connection and camaraderie by and between former and current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings and social activities for veterans and their families at 320 sub-Branches and Chapters across NSW Wellbeing and welfare checks conducted by RSL NSW members

<p>members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of RSL NSW Liaison Officer at the National Centre for Veterans Healthcare, in collaboration with local sub-Branches • Implementation of the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation Program Pilot • Attendance at Australian Defence Force Transition Seminars • Over 40 RSL Day Clubs facilitating social and wellbeing support to veterans and their families
<p>Doing all other things necessary, ancillary, or incidental to pursuing and implementing its benevolent charitable purpose including without limitation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. establishing, maintaining and regulating the operation of RSL NSW sub-Branches in New South Wales; b. researching, promoting, and publicly advocating for the interests of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families on matters of public policy; c. establishing and maintaining literary, social, educational, and benevolent activities for the benefit, promotion and advancement of former and current members of the Australian Defence Force and their families particularly where the member has been detrimentally affected by their service; and d. promoting the defence of the Commonwealth of Australia and guarding the good name, interests and standing of serving members of the Australian Defence Force. 	<p>RSL NSW supports the operation of 320 RSL sub-Branches and Chapters across NSW including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 143 cases of sub-Branches assisted with governance issues, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 transitions to Chapters ○ 1 closure ○ 35 AIS compliance including 1 reinstatement ○ 38 SBA support ○ extra support provided through 2 sub-Branch admin seminars, reaching over 60 sub-Branches ○ 1 management action plan developed for large sub-Branch • 12 sub-Branches supported through the Support and Assistance Fund (total of \$27k) • 4,374 Support correspondence received from sub-Branches and DCs • 2,663 calls YTD to Support Line • Processed 2,190 new members including 1,765 Service members and 425 Affiliate members • Auspice 5 grants for sub-Branches (two at over \$100k each) including BEST and Volunteer grants • 70 Trust Deed adjustments • 124 long service and other certificates processed and awarded • 5 property transactions processed • 47 Board, Committee, and Steering Committee meetings conducted YTD

- Establishment of the RSL NSW Royal Commission Office to support veterans in engagement with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide
- Relaunch of the RSL NSW membership magazine, including digital content, to promote the good name, interests and standing of serving members of the ADF
- Facilitation of quarterly webinars to provide services and support to veterans and their families
- Providing direct financial support to RSL sub-Branches through the RSL NSW sub-Branch Support & Assistance Fund
- Supported the Royal Commission into Defence and Suicide's call for additional protections for serving members who wish to engage with the Royal Commission
- Provided care packages and support to members of the ADF responding to flooding in the Northern Rivers and assisting with the COVID-19 response.

Governance Statement

RSL NSW is committed to a high standard of corporate governance to ensure the organisation achieves its stated objectives in ways that are transparent, accountable, and effective. Corporate governance arrangements are reviewed regularly by the Board.

The Board's conduct is governed by the RSL NSW Act 2018 (Act), the RSL NSW Constitution, and the Board Charter.

Directors

The following were Directors of RSL NSW in the 2021/22 Financial Year:

Name	Date Appointed
Phillip Bridie	April 2019 – December 2020 7 December 2020 (current term)
Phillip Chin	September 2017 – December 2020 7 December 2020 (current term)
Stephen Graham	7 December 2020 (current term)
Jason Hazell	22 August 2021 (current term)
James Hungerford*	11 June 2022 (current term)
John Hutcheson	April 2019 – December 2020 7 December 2020 (current term)
Ray James	May 2014 – January 2017 May 2017 – December 2020 7 December 2020 (current term)
David McCann	7 December 2020 (current term)
Sophie Ray*	June 2019 – June 2022 11 June 2022 (current term)
Louise Sullivan	22 August 2021 (current term)
David Bell*	June 2019 (resigned 26 November 2021)
Clinton Grose	7 December 2020 (resigned 21 July 2021)

**Independent Directors appointed pursuant to the RSL NSW Act 2018 (NSW)*

Governance Statement (cont)

Committees

The following Board Committees assisted the Board in the discharge of its duties:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Congress Agenda Committee
- Nomination, Remunerations and Performance Committee
- Selections Committee
- Young Veterans Committee
- Veteran Services and Policy Committee

Each Committee has a Charter that sets out its role, responsibilities, composition, and structure. The Charters are reviewed regularly by the Board. The Committees report to the Board at each Board meeting and minutes of meetings are provided to the Board.

Conflicts of Interest

All Directors are bound by the conflicts requirements of the Act and the Constitution which guide compliance with all legal, statutory, policy and other obligations.

Directors are required to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest at the start of every Board meeting, at which time the Board determines an appropriate response which may require a Director to remove themselves from discussions, decisions or votes. In the case of staff, any actual or perceived conflict of interest must be declared to the Company Secretary and entered into the Register of Interests.

Director's Expenses

A record of Director Expenditure for the financial year is available on the RSL NSW website.

Board composition and renewal

The Board via its Nominations, Remuneration and Performance Committee reviews and evaluates its succession planning process on an ongoing basis to assist it to identify the skills and experience of serving Directors and to guide the recruitment of Independent Directors.

Board performance review

The Board reviews its performance at the end of every Board meeting. The review includes:

- the conduct of the meeting and Director participation;
- the content, quality and sufficiency of Board papers; and
- whether the venue and facilities were suitable and conducive to an effective meeting.

July 2021 – June 2022 Board and Committee Meeting Attendance

	Board Meetings		Audit & Risk Committee		Congress Agenda Committee		Nominations Remuneration & Performance Committee		Selections Committee		Young Veterans Committee		Veteran Services & Policy Committee	
Board Members	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
David Bell *	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phillip Bridie	15	12	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phillip Chin	15	15	4	2^	-	-	5	4	-	-	5	5	-	-
Stephen Graham	15	15	4	4	-	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clint Grose**	15	1	-	-	2	1**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jason Hazell***	15	12	4	2^^	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
James Hungerford****	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
John Hutcheson	15	13	-	-	2	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	4	2^^^
Ray James	15	15	4	2	2	2	-	-	3	3	5	3	4	3
David McCann	15	13	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	4	4
Sophie Ray	15	14	-	-	2	2	5	3	-	-	5	3	-	-
Louise Sullivan***	15	12	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2

Independent Committee Member

Anna-Leena Risku	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robert Oldfield	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alan Barnes	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Sandra Lambkin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
David Edmond	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-

	Board Meetings		Audit & Risk Committee		Congress Agenda Committee		Nominations Remuneration & Performance Committee		Selections Committee		Young Veterans Committee		Veteran Services & Policy Committee	
Bronte Pollard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	4	4
Jonathan Tuckfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
Nicki Young	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3 [^] [^] [^] [^]
David Anderson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1 [^] [^] [^] [^] [^]
Sarah Watson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-
Mick Birtles [^] [^] [^] [^] [^] [^]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-
Troy Knight [^] [^] [^] [^] [^] [^] [^]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-
Colin Pickstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	-	-
Berdene Oxley-Boyd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-
Kane Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-
Russell Maddalena	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-
Steve Rana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-
John Hopwood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-

* Resigned 26 November 2021

** Resigned 21 July 2021

*** Appointed 21 August 2021

**** Appointed 11 June 2022

^ Resigned from Committee in Dec 2021

^^ Joined Committee in Feb 2022

^^^ Joined Committee in Feb 2022

^^^^ Changed positions May 2022

^^^^^ Joined Committee to replace Nicki Young May 2022

^^^^^^ Resigned 6 April 2022

^^^^^^^ Resigned 21 April 2022

**The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South
Wales Branch)**

ABN 78 368 138 161

Special purpose financial report for the year ended
30 June 2022

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

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The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 30 June 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	\$	\$
Donations received		4,280,011	2,512,187
Management fees		46,876	46,876
Fair value gain on investment properties	11	1,000,612	11,307,698
Gain on sale of investment properties	10	5,258,127	-
Grants		215,349	103,394
Hotel revenue	4.1	3,881,907	3,478,596
Interest income		59,689	31,837
Membership fees and subscriptions		95,743	362,602
Other income	4.2	925,604	1,734,239
Rental income		87,350	221,626
Sale of goods		33,832	44,613
Total revenue		15,885,099	19,843,669
Administration expenses		(763,728)	(790,280)
Communications and publications		(195,743)	(67,057)
Cost of goods sold		(29,695)	(22,885)
Client support payments		(8,253)	(25,865)
Depreciation expense	8	(262,822)	(286,934)
Amortisation expense	9	(110,970)	(208,913)
Donations made	24	(3,225,865)	(2,841,137)
Employee benefits expense		(4,182,660)	(3,843,549)
Events		(290,773)	(196,545)
Finance costs		-	(59,318)
Hotel related expenses		(1,067,267)	(994,152)
Interest paid - Lease Liability		(1,731)	(18,457)
Amortisation of Lease Asset in Use	19	(6,991)	(82,920)
Loss on disposal of assets		(50,191)	(263,184)
Other employee related expenses		(198,632)	(206,397)
Other expenses		(64,529)	(43,780)
Professional fees		(1,084,083)	(1,154,061)
Property expenses		(142,484)	(255,966)
RSL National fees		(517,894)	(205,686)
Director and President expenses		(28,903)	(41,143)
Total expenses		(12,233,214)	(11,608,229)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		3,651,885	8,235,440
Other comprehensive income			
Increase/ (decrease) in the fair value of land and buildings	18	2,955,975	17,302,750
Net change in fair value of financial assets	18	(2,023,477)	419,184
Other comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period		932,498	17,721,934
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period		4,584,383	25,957,374

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)
Statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	10,343,233	2,501,648
Trade and other receivables	6	360,485	488,715
Inventories		42,334	51,909
Asset held for sale	10	-	3,300,000
Total current assets		10,746,052	6,342,272
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	63,176,305	60,383,624
Intangible assets	9	231,441	359,728
Investment properties	11	22,908,310	21,907,698
Financial assets	12	12,174,016	4,205,403
Other financial assets	7	27,220	27,220
Right of Use Asset	19	41,302	28,932
Total non-current assets		98,558,594	86,912,605
Total assets		109,304,646	93,254,877
Liabilities and equity			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	14	4,200,925	602,732
Employee benefit liabilities	15	768,157	677,586
Lease Liability	19	8,715	13,722
Total current liabilities		4,977,797	1,294,040
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefit liabilities	15	18,508	25,025
Specific purpose obligations	16	4,561,544	89,236
Lease Liability	19	33,190	17,352
Deferred income	17	6,600,000	3,300,000
Total non-current liabilities		11,213,242	3,431,613
Total liabilities		16,191,039	4,725,653
Net assets		93,113,607	88,529,224
Equity			
Accumulated funds		47,333,675	43,681,790
Fair value reserve	18	45,779,932	44,847,434
Total equity		93,113,607	88,529,224

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Accumulated funds	Fair value reserve	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
At 1 July 2020	35,446,350	27,125,499	62,571,849
Net surplus for the year	8,235,440	-	8,235,440
Other comprehensive income (Note 18)	-	17,721,934	17,721,934
Total comprehensive income for the year	8,235,440	17,721,934	25,957,374
At 30 June 2021	43,681,790	44,847,434	88,529,224
At 1 July 2021	43,681,790	44,847,434	88,529,224
Net surplus for the year	3,651,885	-	3,651,885
Other comprehensive income (Note 18)	-	932,498	932,498
Total comprehensive income for the year	3,651,885	932,498	4,584,383
At 30 June 2022	47,333,675	45,779,932	93,113,607

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	\$	\$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Membership fees and employees subscriptions		95,743	362,602
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,909,277)	(8,590,659)
Receipts from accommodation charges		3,953,606	3,980,887
Grants received		215,349	103,394
Donations received		4,694,383	2,699,656
Receipts from other income		357,276	1,448,935
Receipts from sale of goods		43,008	-
Investment income		134,226	387,622
Dividends received		88,994	24,251
Interest received		41,940	31,837
Donations paid		(3,177,514)	(2,182,717)
Interest paid		(22)	(59,318)
Receipts for Special purpose funds		4,472,306	-
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	5	6,010,018	(1,793,510)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Deposit from sale of asset		3,300,000	3,300,000
Disposal of Investment Properties		8,558,127	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(99,528)	-
Disposal of property, plant and equipment		400	500
Purchase of intangible assets		-	(151,416)
Purchase of financial instruments		(19,126,910)	(424,033)
Disposal of financial instruments		9,207,588	-
Receipts of loans receivable		-	1,791
Net cash from investing activities		1,839,677	2,726,842
Cash flow from financing activities			
Lease payment		(8,110)	(118,427)
Loan payment		-	(4,000,000)
Net cash used in financing activities		(8,110)	(4,118,427)
Cash at beginning of the period		2,501,648	5,686,743
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		7,841,585	(3,185,095)
Cash and Cash equivalents at 30 June 2022	5	10,343,233	2,501,648

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2022

1. Entity information

The financial statements of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW") for the year ended 30 June 2022 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors on 29 September 2022. RSL NSW is an incorporated body with limited liability, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Incorporation status was established by an Act of the Parliament of New South Wales. By virtue of its method of incorporation, RSL NSW is not a legal entity under the Corporations Act 2001. The registered office and principal place of business of RSL NSW is ANZAC House, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. The principal activities of RSL NSW during the financial year were to provide for the well-being, care and commemoration of serving and ex-serving Defence Force personnel and their dependants and promote Government and Community awareness of current issues relevant to serving and ex-serving ADF personnel.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. This financial report does not include the assets, liabilities and financial performance of the RSL NSW sub-Branches or RSL LifeCare Ltd. In the Board's opinion, RSL NSW is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The Board has determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the users. The financial report has been prepared on a historical cost basis, except investment properties, land and buildings and financial assets that have been measured at fair value. The financial report is presented in Australian dollars (\$).

Changes in accounting policies, new and amended standards and interpretations

RSL NSW has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective. The impact of these new standards and interpretations, however, is not expected to have a material impact on RSL NSW's financial statements.

b) AASB 16 Leases

At inception of a new lease contract, RSL NSW will assess whether a contract is a lease contract. A contract is a lease contract if the contract gives the right to control the use of the underlying asset for a period of time in exchange for a rental payment. The lease term is the minimum number of periods (months/years) for which RSL NSW is contractually obligated to pay the lease rentals. Judgement is used to determine whether an extension option will be exercised at the end of the lease term.

For lease contracts with a lease term of 12 months or less, or where a lease is for a low value asset, Management elect to apply a recognition exemption and lease payments are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss statement.

Measurement and recognition of Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease rental payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if the rate cannot be readily determined, RSL NSW's incremental borrowing rate. Generally RSL NSW uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is amortised over the period of the lease using the annualised rental payment.

Measurement and recognition of Right of use asset

A right of use asset is recognised and is initially recorded at the same value as the lease liability.

It is then recorded in the balance sheet as "Lease Right of Use Asset" and amortised over the lease term using the straight line method. After initial recognition, the Right of Use Asset is measured using the depreciated cost model.

c) AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for Profit Entities

Under AASB 15, a customer of RSL NSW is a party that has contracted with RSL NSW to obtain goods or services that are an output of RSL NSW's ordinary activities in exchange for consideration. The new revenue standard has a single model to deal with revenue from contracts with customers. Its core principle is that revenue should be recognised to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which RSL NSW expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

c) AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for Profit Entities (continued)

RSL NSW uses a 5 – step approach to revenue recognition and measurement as follows:

- Identify the contract with the customer
- Identify the separate performance obligations
- Determine the transaction price
- Allocate the transaction price to the separate performance obligations
- Recognise revenue when (or as) performance obligations are satisfied

RSL NSW applies AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities when RSL NSW enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset, principally to enable the organisation to further its charitable objectives. RSL NSW will recognise and measure the asset at fair value in accordance with other applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

RSL NSW follows the above conditions to recognise its rental income arising from leases on the investment properties over the lease term and includes this income as revenue in the statement of profit or loss. RSL NSW also follows the above conditions to recognise its grants and donation income when received.

d) Current versus non-current classification

RSL NSW presents assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position based on current/non-current classification. An asset is current when it is:

- Expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading
- Expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

e) Fair value measurement

RSL NSW measures financial instruments such as financial assets at fair value at each balance sheet date.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability, or
- In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability

The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by RSL NSW.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

RSL NSW uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 - Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in an active market for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable
- Level 3 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position comprise cash on hand and at bank and short-term deposits with a maturity of three months or less, which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and short-term deposits, as defined above.

g) Trade and Other receivables

A receivable represents the entity's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due). Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less expected credit losses. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

For trade receivables, the entity applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses (ECL). Therefore, the entity does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

h) Inventories

Inventories comprise goods for resale and goods for distribution for nominal consideration as part of RSL NSW's activities.

Goods for resale

Inventories of goods for resale are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less any applicable selling expenses.

Goods held for distribution

Inventories of goods purchased and held for distribution are carried at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

i) Financial assets - initial recognition and subsequent measurement

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, and subsequently measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI).

Subsequent measurement

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified in two categories:

- Financial assets at fair value through OCI with recycling of cumulative gains and losses (debt instruments)
- Financial assets designated at fair value through OCI with no recycling of cumulative gains and losses upon derecognition (equity instruments)

Financial assets at fair value through OCI (debt instruments)

RSL NSW measures debt instruments at fair value through OCI if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling, and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

For debt instruments at fair value through OCI, interest income, foreign exchange revaluation and impairment losses or reversals are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and computed in the same manner as for financial assets measured at amortised cost. The remaining fair value changes are recognised in OCI. Upon derecognition, the cumulative fair value change recognised in OCI is recycled to profit or loss.

RSL NSW's debt instruments at fair value through OCI includes investments in quoted debt instruments included under non-current financial assets.

Financial assets designated at fair value through OCI (equity instruments)

Upon initial recognition, RSL NSW elected to classify irrevocably its equity investments as equity instruments designated at fair value through OCI when they meet the definition of equity under IAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation and are not held for trading. The classification is determined on an instrument-by-instrument basis.

Gains and losses on these financial assets are never recycled to profit or loss. Dividends are recognised as other income in the statement of profit or loss when the right of payment has been established, except when RSL NSW benefits from such proceeds as a recovery of part of the cost of the financial asset, in which case, such gains are recorded in OCI. Equity instruments designated at fair value through OCI are not subject to impairment assessment.

RSL NSW elected to classify irrevocably its listed and non-listed equity investments under this category.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

j) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, if any. Such cost includes the cost of replacing part of the plant and equipment if the recognition criteria are met. When significant parts of plant and equipment are required to be replaced at intervals, RSL NSW depreciates them separately based on their specific useful lives. All other repairs and maintenance costs are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as incurred.

Land and buildings

The land and building is measured at fair value, with changes in fair value recognised in asset revaluation reserve. On December 2020 RSL NSW entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its land and building Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price as the fair value for Hyde Park Inn and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2022.

A revaluation surplus is recorded in OCI and credited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity. However, to the extent that it reverses a revaluation deficit of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is recognised in profit or loss. A revaluation deficit is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, except to the extent that it offsets an existing surplus on the same asset recognised in the asset revaluation reserve.

An annual transfer from the asset revaluation reserve to retained earnings is made for the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset and depreciation based on the asset's original cost. Additionally, accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset. Upon disposal, any revaluation surplus relating to the particular asset being sold is transferred to retained earnings.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

Plant and equipment	5%-33%
Leasehold improvements	20%

An item of property, plant and equipment and any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the statement of profit or loss when the asset is derecognised.

The residual values, useful lives and methods of depreciation of property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each financial year end and adjusted prospectively, if appropriate.

k) Intangibles

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Internally generated intangibles, excluding capitalised development costs, are not capitalised and the related expenditure is reflected in profit or loss in the period in which the expenditure is incurred.

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over the useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are considered to modify the amortisation period or method, as appropriate, and are treated as changes in accounting estimates. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised in the statement of profit or loss in the expense category that is consistent with the function of the intangible assets.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the intangibles, as follows:

Computer Software	20%-33%
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l) Investment properties

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value, which reflects market conditions at the reporting date. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are included in the statement of profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

m) Impairment of non-financial assets

RSL NSW assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, RSL NSW estimates the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or CGU's fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. The recoverable amount is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets. When the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. In determining fair value less costs of disposal, recent market transactions are taken into account. If no such transactions can be identified, an appropriate valuation model is used. These calculations are corroborated by valuation multiples or other available fair value indicators.

Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of profit or loss as an expense.

An assessment is made at each reporting date to determine whether there is an indication that previously recognised impairment losses no longer exist or have decreased. If such indication exists, RSL NSW estimates the asset's or CGU's recoverable amount. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the assumptions used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount, nor exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case, the reversal is treated as a revaluation increase.

n) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and due to their short-term nature they are not discounted. They represent liabilities for goods and services provided to RSL NSW prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when RSL NSW becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

o) Employee benefit liabilities

Wages and salaries

Liabilities for wages and salaries which are expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long service leave and annual leave

RSL NSW does not expect its long service leave or annual leave benefits to be settled wholly within 12 months of each reporting date. RSL NSW recognises a liability for long service leave and annual leave measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

p) Taxes

RSL NSW is a not-for-profit organisation outlined in its constitution and registered with ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) and as such, is exempt from income tax.

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except:

- When the GST incurred on a sale or purchase of assets or services is not payable to or recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the revenue or the expense item or as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset, as applicable; and
- When receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as part of operating cash flows.

q) Specific purpose obligations

Specific purpose obligations represent funds received from individuals, estates or other parties for various purposes including: scholarships or youth sporting and other social activities. Such funds are held by RSL NSW to spend at its discretion for the purpose for which they originated. RSL NSW recognises the obligation to expend these funds as a provision, in some cases also maintaining a separate bank account. When the particular purpose for which the funds were contributed is completed, the obligation is extinguished, or RSL NSW decides that the funds can no longer be expended for the originally established purpose any surplus funds are recognised as revenue. In addition, RSL NSW holds funds on behalf of other parties for specific memorials or commemorations purposes. These funds are held as an asset and a corresponding liability.

3. Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of RSL NSW's financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities, the accompanying disclosures and, the disclosure of contingent liabilities. Uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of affected assets or liabilities in future periods.

Estimates and assumptions

RSL NSW makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates by definition seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of asset and liabilities.

Fair value measurement of financial assets

When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the statement of financial position cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets, their fair value is measured using valuation techniques including the discounted cash flow (DCF) model. The inputs to these models are taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgement is required in establishing fair values. Judgements include considerations of inputs such as liquidity risk, credit risk and volatility. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

Fair value measurement of land and buildings

RSL NSW has entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its land and building, Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price from this deed as the fair value and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2022. The market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date has been used, to determine the present value of Hyde Park Inn (Note 8).

Fair value measurement of investment properties

RSL NSW has entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell its investment property, 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price from this deed as the fair value and has used the discounted present value method to revalue its investment property as at 30 June 2022. The market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date has been used, to determine the present value of 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (Note 11).

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

4. Revenue

4.1 Hotel revenue

Accommodation
Ancillary income

Notes	2022	2021
	\$	\$
	3,872,035	3,469,411
	9,872	9,185
	3,881,907	3,478,596

Geographical markets

Australia

Total revenue from contracts with customers

	3,881,907	3,478,596
	3,881,907	3,478,596

Timing of revenue recognition

Goods transferred at a point in time
Services transferred over time

Total revenue from contracts with customers

	9,872	9,185
	3,872,035	3,469,411
	3,881,907	3,478,596

4.2 Other income

Fee For Service
Closed sub-Branches
Other income*
Jobsaver subsidy
Investment income
Support and assistance fund contribution
Administration Fee Income
Dividend received

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
	-	222,904
	-	37,265
	243,862	93,500
	155,357	1,038,700
	10,770	119,119
	414,373	187,470
	-	11,030
	101,242	24,251
	925,604	1,734,239

* This includes income from sale of Coonamble RSL sub-Branch and Weston RSL sub-Branch property, postage reimbursement from sub-Branches and business support grant from Service NSW.

5. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and on hand

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
	10,343,233	2,501,648
	10,343,233	2,501,648

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise the above.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

5. Cash and cash equivalents (continued)

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Cash flow reconciliation		
Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) to net cash flows from/(used in) operations:		
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	3,651,885	8,235,440
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	373,792	495,847
Written-off of intangible assets	17,316	-
(Gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	(400)	262,925
Loss on sale of debt instrument	50,191	-
Gain on disposal of right-of-use assets	(3,449)	-
(Gain)/loss on sale of investment properties	(5,258,127)	658,420
Amortisation and interest - lease liability	8,722	101,377
Revaluation gain of Investment properties	(1,000,612)	(11,307,698)
Investment Income - Other	(10,770)	-
Accrued dividend income	(12,248)	-
Accrued interest income	(17,749)	-
Impairment of financial assets	-	34,744
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in trade and other receivables	46,038	503,131
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	9,575	(839)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	3,599,491	(509,109)
Increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	84,054	(248,127)
Increase/(decrease) in special purpose obligations	4,472,308	(19,621)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	6,010,018	(1,793,510)

6. Trade and other receivables

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Current		
Trade debtors	93,534	165,233
Sundry debtors	38,935	2,148
Prepayments and accrued income	228,016	321,334
	360,485	488,715

7. Other financial assets

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Term Deposit - non-current	27,220	27,220
	27,220	27,220

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

8. Property, plant and equipment

	Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cost				
At 1 July 2021	60,526,663	344,413	-	60,871,076
Additions	-	83,931	15,598	99,529
Revaluations	2,955,975	-	-	2,955,975
Disposals	-	1,632	-	1,632
At 30 June 2022	63,482,638	429,976	15,598	63,928,212
Depreciation				
At 1 July 2021	200,647	286,805	-	487,452
Depreciation charge for the period	200,648	58,841	3,333	262,822
Disposals	-	1,632	-	1,632
At 30 June 2022	401,295	347,278	3,333	751,907
Net book value				
At 30 June 2022	63,081,343	82,698	12,265	63,176,305
At 30 June 2021	60,326,016	57,608	-	60,383,624

Additions

Additions mainly relate to computer equipment and fit-out costs relating to the new office premise at 175 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Hyde Park Inn

In December 2020, RSL NSW entered into a Put and Call Option (PCO) Deed for the the sale of Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street with Central Element. The PCO will allow the purchaser to exercise a call option during the call option period (between 30-48 months from the date of the Deed) to buy Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street. If the call option is not exercised by Central Element, RSL NSW can exercise a put option during the put option period (15 business days after the call option expiry date) to sell both properties and make the agreement binding for both parties. The future Minimum Purchase Price has been agreed at \$95m. RSL NSW has used this \$95m as a future fair value for both Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street as at 30 June 2022. A discount rate of 7.43% has been selected which is the market incremental borrowing rate at the reporting date to determine the present value of the properties. This has resulted in a revaluation gain of \$2.95m for Hyde Park Inn which has been credited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity.

The 2021 financial statement referred to a Guaranteed Minimum Purchase Price of \$95m which may have implied that a guarantee existed over the \$95m sale price. It should be noted that the future purchase price comprises a minimum purchase price of \$95m and an additional uplift amount which will be calculated at settlement.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

9. Intangible Assets

	Intangible Assets	Capital Work In Progress (WIP)	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Cost			
At 1 July 2021	776,190	17,317	793,507
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
WIP written off	-	(17,317)	(17,317)
At 30 June 2022	776,190	-	776,190
Amortisation			
At 1 July 2021	433,779	-	433,779
Amortisation charge for the period	110,970	-	110,970
Disposals	-	-	-
At 30 June 2022	544,749	-	544,749
Net book value at 30 June 2022	231,441	-	231,441
Net book value at 30 June 2021	342,411	17,317	359,728

10. Asset held for Sale

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Concord RSL & Community Club, Concord West	-	3,300,000
	-	3,300,000

Concord RSL & Community Club was sold to The Croation Club Ltd in November 2021. Sale price was \$8.5m, resulted in a gain on sale of \$5.2m.

11. Investment Properties

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney	22,908,310	21,907,698
	22,908,310	21,907,698

262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

In 2015, RSL NSW purchased 262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney for \$8,690,000 and in future periods incurred expenses in respect of a development application of \$782,179. The property was reclassified to as an investment property for the year ended 31 December 2016 to reflect its intended use. The property was intended to be held for capital appreciation.

On December 2020, RSL NSW entered into a Put and Call Option (PCO) deed with Central Element to sell 262 Castlereagh Street along with Hyde Park Inn. The future Minimum Purchase Price has been agreed at \$95m for both the properties. RSL NSW has used this \$95m as a future fair value for both Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street and has used the discounted present value method to revalue 262 Castlereagh Street as at 30 June 2022. This has resulted in a revaluation gain of \$1m for 262 Castlereagh Street which has been credited to the profit and loss statement as a fair value gain on investment properties.

The 2021 financial statement referred to a Guaranteed Minimum Purchase Price of \$95m which may have implied that a guarantee existed over the \$95m sale price. It should be noted that the future purchase price comprises a minimum purchase price of \$95m and an additional uplift amount which will be calculated at settlement.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

12. Financial Asset investments

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Investment - Debt Instruments	6,289,583	-
Mortgage and wholesale funds	4,989,965	942,857
Investment - Alternative Assets	894,468	-
Index Funds	-	3,262,546
	12,174,016	4,205,403

The fair value is determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

13. Fair value measurement

The following table provides the valuation details of RSL NSW's assets measured at fair value:

	Date of Valuation	\$
Assets measured at fair value:		
Financial Asset investments (Note 12)		
Mortgage and wholesale funds	2022	4,989,965
	2021	942,857
Index Funds	2022	-
	2021	2,986,166
Cash Trust	2022	-
	2021	276,380
Investment - Debt Instruments	2022	6,289,583
	2021	-
Investment - Alternative Assets	2022	894,468
	2021	-
Property, plant and equipment (Note 8)		
Hyde Park Inn	2022	63,081,343
	2021	60,326,016
Investment properties (Note 11)		
262 Castlereagh Street, Sydney	2022	22,908,310
	2021	21,907,698

The fair value of financial assets is determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

14. Trade and other payables

Current

Trade and other payables
Deposits in advance
Subscriptions received in advance
Donation payable to RSL LifeCare
Payroll tax payable
sub-Branch grant received in advance

2022	2021
\$	\$
634,825	462,924
102,314	73,065
-	62,438
3,162,224	-
5,334	4,305
296,228	-
4,200,925	602,732

15. Employee benefit liabilities

Current

Annual leave
Long service leave

2022	2021
\$	\$
379,849	335,330
388,308	342,256
768,157	677,586

Non-current

Long service leave

18,508	25,025
18,508	25,025

16. Specific purpose obligations

Youth councils
Scholarships
Memorial and commemoration provisions
Funds held on behalf of sub-Branches

2022	2021
\$	\$
41,650	44,490
32,494	32,494
793	793
4,486,607	11,459
4,561,544	89,236

17. Deferred income

Deposit received in advance from sale of asset
--

2022	2021
\$	\$
6,600,000	3,300,000
6,600,000	3,300,000

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

18. Fair value reserves

	Fair Value Reserve	Asset revaluation reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2020	2,240,310	24,885,189	27,125,499
Increase in value of financial asset investments	419,185	-	419,185
Increase in value of land and buildings	-	17,302,750	17,302,750
As at 30 June 2021	2,659,495	42,187,939	44,847,434
Decrease in value of financial asset investments	(2,023,477)	-	(2,023,477)
Increase in value of land and buildings	-	2,955,975	2,955,975
As at 30 June 2022	636,018	45,143,914	45,779,932

Nature and purpose of reserves

Financial assets

Changes in the fair value and exchange differences arising on translation of investments that are classified as financial assets (e.g., equities), are recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and accumulated in a separate reserve within equity.

Asset revaluation reserve

The land and building of Hyde Park Inn is measured at fair value, with changes in fair value being recognised in OCI. On December 2020 RSL NSW entered into a put and call option deed with Central Element to sell Hyde Park Inn. RSL NSW has used the future minimum sale price of \$95m as the fair value for Hyde Park Inn and has used the discounted present value method to revalue Hyde Park Inn as at 30 June 2022. The revaluation gain has been credited to asset revaluation reserve.

19. Leases

RSL NSW has entered into lease commitments in August 2021 with FujiFilm for printers and photocopy machines at its office premises. Due to reduced operational requirements, RSL NSW has terminated the lease contract with Toshiba. The lease term with FujiFilm will expire in October 2026. Information regarding the leases are presented below:

	Right of Use Asset	
	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Right of Use Asset		
Balance at 1 July 2021		28,932
Additions during the year		46,068
Amortisation		(6,991)
Disposals during the year		(26,707)
Balance at 30 June 2022		41,302
Lease liability		
<i>Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cashflows</i>		
Within one year	11,028	15,576
After 1 year but less than 5 years	36,760	18,172
More than 5 years	-	-
	47,788	33,748
Lease liabilities included in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022:		
Current	8,715	13,722
Non-current	33,190	17,352
	41,905	31,074

20. Commitments, contingencies and lease commitments

Capital Commitments

RSL NSW did not have any capital commitments as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: nil).

Contingent liabilities

RSL NSW did not have any other contingencies as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: nil).

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

21. Related party information

	Description of transactions	Entity Type	2022	2021
Revenue from			\$	\$
ANZAC House Trust	Management fees	1	20,400	20,400
RSL Welfare & Benevolent Institution (WBI)	Management fees & Shared expenses	2	-	222,904
Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF)	Management fees	4	26,476	26,476
			46,876	269,780
			2022	2021
Payments To			\$	\$
RSL LifeCare Ltd.	Donation, grants and other services	3	-	2,605,333
			-	2,605,333
			2022	2021
Amounts owed by/(to) Related Parties			\$	\$
RSL LifeCare Ltd.		3	(3,162,224)	(60,773)
			(3,162,224)	(60,773)

Entity Type

1. The entity is the co-occupier of the premises sub-leased by the Trust. The entity and the Trust have common natural persons as members of the Board of Management.
2. RSL WBI and the entity share resources and have common management personnel. The entity provided services to the Trustees until the wind-up date of the trust 31 October 2020.
3. RSL NSW is the sole member of RSL LifeCare Ltd.
4. The entity and AFOF have common natural persons as members of the Board of Management.

A services agreement was entered into with RSL WBI for RSL NSW to deliver services to ex-serving veterans, the cost of which was invoiced by RSL NSW to RSL WBI. RSL NSW delivered services under the RSL DefenceCare program to both serving and ex-serving veterans. RSL WBI funded the provision of services to ex-serving veterans. RSL WBI wind up its operations in October 2020.

22. Auditors remuneration

PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Ltd Partnership was appointed to conduct audit of the statutory financial report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2022.

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Amounts received or due and receivable:		
Fees for auditing the statutory financial report - PKF(NS) Audit & Assurance Ltd Partnership	55,000	-
Fees for auditing the statutory financial report - Ernst & Young	-	74,880
	55,000	74,880

The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

23. Board of Directors and key management personnel compensation

The members of the Board during the reporting period was as follows:

Name	Position
Ronald Raymond James	President
Phillip Chin	Director
Sophie Ray	Director
Phillip Bridie	Director
John Hutcheson	Director
David McCann	Director
Stephen Graham	Director
Louise Sullivan	Director, appointed on 21 August 2021
Jason Hazell	Director, appointed on 22 August 2021
James Hungerford	Director, appointed on 11 June 2022
Clinton Grose	Director, resigned on 21 July 2021
David Bell	Director, resigned on 26 November 2021

The Directors are not remunerated by RSL NSW, only certain expenses incurred on behalf of RSL NSW are reimbursed. These expenses amounted to \$28,903 (2021: \$41,143).

Key management personnel are persons who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of RSL NSW during the financial period. The key management personnel in office during the financial period were:

Name	Position
Jonathan Black	Chief Executive Officer
Scott Warr	Acting Chief Executive Officer from 25 March 2022 to 04 July 2022
Nicole Hasrouni	Chief Financial Officer
Jeffrey O'Brien	State Secretary/Company Secretary
Trina Constable	Head of Communications and Marketing
Valentya Jurkiw	Head of Legal/Company Secretary, resigned on 25 March 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Total compensation paid to key management personnel	1,191,333	1,108,245

24. Donations made

Funds were distributed as follows:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
RSL sub-Branches	66,359	673,605
Donations made to RSL LifeCare Ltd.	3,154,506	2,164,532
Donation other	5,000	3,000
	3,225,865	2,841,137



Responsible Entities' declaration

I, Ronald Raymond James, President of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (RSL NSW) declare that in my opinion:

- 1) the financial statements and notes of RSL NSW satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including by giving a true and fair view of the financial position of RSL NSW as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date and by complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 to the financial statements;
- 2) there are reasonable grounds to believe RSL NSW is able to pay all of its debts as and when they become due and payable.

I am authorised by the responsible entities to sign this declaration under section 60.15(2) of the ACNC Regulation.

Ronald Raymond James
President
RSL NSW

Dated this 29 day of September 2022



President's declaration given under Charitable Fundraising Authority Condition 6(3)

I, Ronald Raymond James, President of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) (RSL NSW) declare that in the circumstances and to the relevant extent, in my opinion:

1. the income statement gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of income and expenditure of RSL NSW with respect to fundraising appeals;
2. the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of RSL NSW with respect to its fundraising appeals;
3. the provisions of the Act, the regulations under the Act and the conditions attached to the RSL NSW Charitable Fundraising Authority have been complied with; or
4. the internal controls exercised by the organisation are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by RSL NSW from any fundraising appeals.

Ronald Raymond James

President
RSL NSW

Dated this 29 day of September 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH) ("RSL NSW")

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of RSL NSW, has been prepared in accordance with *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

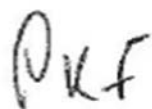
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, action taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.



PKF



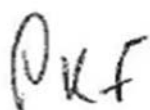
KYM REILLY
PARTNER

29 SEPTEMBER 2022
SYDNEY, NSW

Auditors' Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Directors of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) ("RSL NSW")

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



PKF



KYM REILLY
PARTNER

29 SEPTEMBER 2022
SYDNEY, NSW

PKF (NS) Audit & Assurance Limited Partnership
ABN 91 850 861 839

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under Professional Standards Legislation

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For our office locations visit www.pkf.com.au

APPENDIX A – MINUTES OF MEETING 6 DECEMBER 2021

MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH) HELD VIRTUALLY AND AT 175 PITT STREET, SYDNEY ON 6 DECEMBER 2021 AT 09:00AM



DIRECTORS

PRESENT:

Ray James (President)
Sophie Ray (Chair) *(by teleconference)*
Phillip Bridie *(by teleconference)*
Phillip Chin *(by teleconference)*
David McCann *(by teleconference)*
Steve Graham *(by teleconference)*
Louise Sullivan *(by teleconference)*
Jason Hazell *(by teleconference)*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jon Black (Chief Executive Officer)
Valentyna Jurkiw (Head of Legal & Company Secretary)
Jeff O'Brien (State Secretary)
Trina Constable (Head of Communications and Marketing)
Nicole Hasrouni (Chief Financial Officer)^
Daniel Cunningham (Audit Partner, Ernst & Young)^
^ part of meeting only

DELEGATES

PRESENT

170 sub-Branch and District Council Delegates at 9:11am
250 people online of which 195 were Delegates at 10:05am
200 people online of which 150 were Delegates at 1:40pm

APOLOGY:

John Hutcheson

A SILENT TRIBUTE WAS OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED COMRADES AS WAS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

OPENING:

Ray James (RJ), the President and Chair of the meeting, noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open at 9.11 am.

RULES AND

VOTING

PROCEDURE:

RJ outlined the rules and procedures to be used during the meeting including the voting procedures. He reminded Delegates to submit their votes at the appropriate times.

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT:

RJ spoke to the suggested changes to the Constitution and encouraged all Members and Delegates to focus on the charitable purpose and to ensure any decision making relevant to the RSL was based on helping veterans and their families.

RJ stressed that the Board and State Branch are working transparently to ensure the future of the League is strong.

RJ asked all Delegates to engage with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide that commenced on 27 November 2021 and to give thought to the

families who have lost loved ones to suicide and what could be done better within the RSL Community to prevent deaths by suicide in the future.

RJ spoke to the Strategic Plan and encouraged all members to embrace the plan and to assist with the implementation, noting that a progress report would be given by the CEO at Tuesday's meeting. Serious consideration must be given to attracting younger Members to the League.

RJ thanked the ANZAC House team and all sub-Branch Executives, District Councils and the District Presidents' Council for all the work done over the last 12 months especially within the constraints of COVID-19.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Nicole Hasrouni (NH) presented the Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2021. She advised that no new accounting standards were adopted in the financial year and the financial statements were prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

NH detailed key events that had a material impact on the financial statements:

- Service delivery is now provided by partner charity – RSL LifeCare Limited following the transfer of RSL DefenceCare team and programs to RSL LifeCare
- Reduction of staff at ANZAC House
- Sale of Hyde Park Inn and 262 Castlereagh Street
- Donation of \$2.1m raised within the sub-Branch network made to RSL DefenceCare
- Assets valuation increased to \$93m from \$69m
- Donations from sub-Branches decreased
- Hyde Park Inn occupancy was negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Expenses have been reduced by 36%

Daniel Cunningham presented his report, confirming that the audit is complete and that Ernst & Young received full cooperation from management and that all deadlines were met. He stated that the audit report (attached to the financial statements) was unqualified.

VOTING:

RJ reminded Delegates how to vote and/or speak to a motion and that each Delegate should phone in advance should they wish to speak for or against a motion. Each speaker would have two minutes to speak. There was no requirement to second the motion.

MOTIONS:

1. MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were adopted.

No Delegates spoke for or against the motion. Simple majority 50.1% to carry.

Results:

For:	100 %
Against:	0 %

Motion Carried and Resolution passed.

2. REGISTER OF MOTIONS

The following matters were noted:

- (a) the Summary Register of Motions passed at the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Annual Congress and the status of their implementation; and
- (b) that in accordance with the resolution passed by Members at the 2019 Annual Congress, an updated Register of Motions will be provided to Members within two (2) calendar months of the conclusion of the 2021 AGM.

Motion noted.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

The progress report published on the RSL NSW website for Member consideration on 1 December 2021 was noted.

Motion noted.

4. ANNUAL REPORT, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

The Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for RSL NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 were adopted and the requirement to lodge the Annual Report of RSL NSW for the year ended 30 June 2021 with the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans following the 2021 AGM was noted.

No Delegates spoke for or against the motion. Simple majority 50.1% to carry.

Results:

For:	100 %
Against:	0 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

5. STANDING MOTION – MEMBERSHIP FEE

It was noted in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2021-26, no annual Membership fee is payable in 2022 and that accordingly no capitation fee allocation was to be determined pursuant to Appendix B, clause 11 of the RSL NSW Constitution.

Motion noted.

6. VENUE FOR NEXT ANNUAL CONGRESS/AGM

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

*THAT the venue for the next Annual Congress/Annual General Meeting (and where possible any extraordinary general meeting) to be conducted by way of in person attendance, COVID-19 restrictions permitting will be at **Newcastle Exhibition & Convention Centre, 309 King Street, Newcastle West** with the*

Board to determine whether or not such next meeting will be held by way of in person attendance or by remote technology in its discretion.

No Delegates spoke for or against the motion.

Results:

For: 98.33 %

Against: 1.67 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed

7. VETERAN POLICY MOTIONS

7.1 Support to Veterans admitted to Hospital

Proposer – Wingham

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW liaises with NSW Health and other relevant departments to enable RSL NSW sub-Branch wellbeing support officers to support veterans admitted to NSW public hospitals through:

- (a) *being informed that a veteran has been admitted to hospital;*
- (b) *being informed that a veteran is willing to be contacted by an RSL NSW wellbeing support officer through:*
 - (i) *using a check box on the admission form to record the veteran's wishes; and*
 - (ii) *the hospital alerting an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer via a designated telephone number; and*
- (c) *clearance to visit the veteran during their stay in hospital using NSW Health protocols; and*
- (d) *assisting the veteran to connect to local support or services they need.*

Speaker for the motion: Terrence Gould – Wingham sub-Branch

The speaker reiterated the proposed motion. He highlighted that the motion is intended to support and assist all Veterans within the constraints of each Veteran's wishes in relation to confidentiality and willingness to receive support from the RSL.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 97.22 %

Against: 2.78 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

7.2 Tax Free TPI Pension

Proposer – Old Bar Beach

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW ask the Federal Government to consider the proposal from the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association (AATTVA) TPI WA Branch that a non means tested, tax free service pension for all TPI recipients, regardless of age be implemented and that the disparity between widower pensions and the current TPI payment, should be addressed by increasing the payment to the full TPI amount.

No Delegates spoke for or against the motion.

Results:

For:	93.18 %
Against:	6.82 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

7.3 Qualifying Service Medal - Vietnam Service Medal to be provided to all Vietnam Veterans

Proposer – Moree

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW support the issuing of a second Vietnam Service medal, currently reserved for those veterans who served at least 180 days in country, to all Vietnam veterans, irrespective of time in country.

No Delegates spoke for or against the motion.

Results:

For:	74.86 %
Against:	25.14 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8. ANZAC HOUSE MOTIONS

8.1 Museum of Contemporary Art – Maritime Services Board Memorial

Proposer – Maritime Services Board

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW consult with the Premier of New South Wales to have the War Memorial situated on the marble wall in the entrance to the former Maritime Services Board building returned to its former glory by arranging the removal of a multi panelled painting which conceals the War Memorial.

Speaker for the motion: Iain Finlay, Maritime Services Board sub-Branch

The speaker highlighted that requests were made for the restoration of the memorial since 2014.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 98.88 %
Against: 1.12 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8.2 Report on AGM Motions - Register of Motions at RSL NSW Annual Congress AGM

Proposer – Northern Metropolitan District Council

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT future RSL NSW Congress includes a formal presentation providing a report and review of previous Congress/AGM motions with an update on the progress, resolution or otherwise of each motion.

Speaker for the motion: Derek Leslie – Northern Metropolitan District Council

The speaker for the motion stated his appreciation for having the motions register included this year and looks forward to this practice being continued with the inclusion of a progress report on motions.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 96.09 %
Against: 3.91 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8.3 Recruiting Program

Proposer – Castle Hill and District sub-Branch and Queanbeyan

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW develops a plan to facilitate recruiting in NSW for new Members.

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker acknowledged that this motion forms part of the Strategic Plan, but emphasised that this initiative should be developed and deployed as soon as possible.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 86.59 %
Against: 13.41 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8.4 Virtual Membership within Current Membership Categories

Proposer – Byron Bay

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT virtual Membership be adopted as an additional recruitment tool for RSL NSW.

Speaker for the motion: Robert Asquith - Byron Bay sub-Branch

The speaker stated that recruiting of younger veterans is difficult and virtual membership could be a means to encourage them to sign up, allowing them to receive communications and to attend activities when they can.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	64.77 %
Against:	35.23 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8.5 Expansion of Charitable Purpose to Broaden Definition of Veteran

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT RSL NSW approach RSL National for the purposes of RSL National expanding the Charitable Purpose to include persons:

- (a) *who are veterans within the definition in the Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019; and*
- (b) *who have served or are serving as a member of the Armed Forces of:*
 - (i) *any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;*
 - (ii) *any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;*
 - (iii) *the United States of America; or*
- (c) *to whom (a) or (b) does not apply but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:*
 - (i) *either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Force or the Armed Forces of those countries or places referred to in paragraph (b) above; or*
 - (ii) *served as a member of the Armed Forces of another country or place which, during that time of conflict, was an ally of the Commonwealth.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker advised the meeting that he felt that discussion about the beneficiaries of the charitable purpose when the RSL NSW Constitution passed in 2019 did not adequately explain that only ADF veterans were to be beneficiaries.

Speaker against the motion: Adrian Sutter – Coogee Randwick Clovelly sub-Branch

The speaker advised the meeting that the RSL has an obligation to Australian Veterans first and priority should be extended to them before expanding our obligations to assist other veterans.

Results:

For:	67.23 %
Against:	32.77 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

8.6 Review of RSL Badge

Proposer – Forestville

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT the RSL Badge be reviewed and the following recommendations in relation to the RSL Badge be forwarded to RSL National for consideration:

- (a) the rose, leek, thistle and shamrock be removed from the badge and replaced by rosemary and poppies to symbolise the RSL's important role in community commemorations, especially ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day;*
- (b) the four central figures of the badge are reviewed in terms of dress, gender and ethnic mix to be more representative of the service and ex-service community; and*
- (c) that the shape of the badge be reviewed.*

Speaker for the motion: Robert Lunnon – Forestville sub-Branch

The speaker explained that the badge design was outdated and should be changed to better represent dress, gender and ethnic mix in the services.

Speaker against the motion: Adrian Sutter – Coogee Randwick Clovelly sub-Branch

The speaker advised the meeting that rebranding was a complex and expensive exercise and that the exercise should not be undertaken at the expense of the strategic plan and charitable purpose.

Results:

For:	34.64 %
Against:	65.36 %

Motion Lost.

9. CONSTITUTION MOTIONS

9.1 Adopt Amended Constitution

Proposer - RSL NSW Board

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the Amended Constitution annexed to and circulated with the Notice of Meeting as Appendix C be adopted as the Constitution of RSL NSW in place of the existing Constitution with effect from 1 January 2022; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW register a sealed copy of the Constitution of RSL NSW with the Registrar- General pursuant to section 15 of the RSL NSW Act 2018 (NSW).*

Speaker for the motion: Sophie Ray – Chair RSL NSW

The speaker provided the meeting with background as to the work that had been conducted in revising the RSL NSW Constitution and that the work had been conducted by a Committee consisting of Member Representatives, ANZAC House staff and an independent chair following member consultation. She advised that the amended Constitution refined and corrected matters which were identified as being unworkable since the Constitution was adopted in 2019 and also incorporated member feedback.

Speaker against the motion: John Greig – Bundeena sub-Branch

The speaker stated that further work needed to be done and that until this work was completed the Constitution should not be adopted.

Results:

For:	65.17 %
Against:	34.83 %

Motion Lost.

9.2 Set 2: Motions to take effect from 1 January 2022 if passed

9.2.1 President Cannot Be Trustee

Proposer – RSL NSW Board

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to provide that the President of a sub-Branch cannot act as Trustee and that any President of a sub-Branch already appointed as a Trustee must cease to hold dual roles by no later than 1 July 2022; and that*

- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Sophie Ray – Chair RSL NSW

The speaker highlighted that this motion is to avoid any conflict of interest for an executive holding both roles.

Speaker against the motion: John Greig – Bundeena sub-Branch

The speaker raised the concern that some sub-Branches would not be able to operate effectively if this motion was passed.

Results:

For:	50 %
Against:	50 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.2 Treasurer Cannot be Trustee

Proposer – RSL NSW Board

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to provide that the Treasurer of a sub-Branch cannot act as Trustee and that any Treasurer of a sub-Branch already appointed as a Trustee must cease to hold dual roles by no later than 1 July 2022; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Sophie Ray – Chair RSL NSW

The speaker highlighted that this motion is to avoid any conflict of interest for an Executive holding both roles and that it is not good practice for the Treasurer also acting as the Trustee to oversee the governance of their own accounting and financial management.

No Delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	55.19 %
Against:	44.81 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.3 RSL NSW Deputy President to be a Service Member/Elected Director

Proposer – Bateman’s Bay & FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to require the RSL NSW Deputy President to be a Director fulfilling the eligibility criteria for an Elected Director; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker highlighted the appropriateness of the representative role of President and Deputy President and that it should be filled by a service member.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	83.7 %
Against:	16.3 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

9.2.4 Chair of RSL NSW Board to be a Service Member/Elected Director

Proposers – Bateman’s Bay and FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to require the RSL NSW Chair to be a Director fulfilling the eligibility criteria for an Elected Director; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that the possibility of an unelected/non service member director being chosen as chair was not adequately considered when approving the 2019 Constitution.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 66.12 %
Against: 33.88 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.5 Membership Register Update following Amalgamation

Proposer – Intra Mural

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended to prescribe that following amalgamation, the Membership Register will be updated by the sub-Branch which has amalgamated; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Ian Bubb – Westpac sub-Branch

In response to the statement in the Notice of Meeting that this could be an administrative burden on sub-Branches that already find it difficult to fill leadership position, the speaker stated that this would always be a task with relatively small numbers involved.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For: 59.02 %
Against: 40.98 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.6 Validity of Decision Making if Board Meeting Notice Improperly Served

Proposer – Intra Mural

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *clause 9.39 of the RSL NSW Constitution is amended as follows “**Notice of a meeting may be given by any reasonable means of communication to each director as provided (however that the failure to give notice will not invalidate any decision or resolution made at the meeting).**”;*
and that
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Glenn Daly – Intra Mural sub-Branch

The speaker stated that if a notice of meeting is not properly served to Directors, any decision or resolution passed at the meeting should be invalid.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	62.3 %
Against:	37.7 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.7 Invalidity of Decision Making where Director Conflict of Interest

Proposer – Intra Mural

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *clause 9.54 of the RSL NSW Constitution is deleted as follows “**A contravention of this section does not invalidate any decision of the Board.**”; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Glenn Daly – Intra Mural District Council

The speaker stated that the importance of managing conflict of interest should not be under-estimated and any conflicts or perceived conflicts should be recorded prior to any discussion and that any circumstance of a decision being made where there is a conflict or perceived conflict should be reported.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	53.01 %
Against:	46.99 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.8 Board Attendance at District Council Meetings

Proposer – Intra Mural

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *clause 13.32 of the Constitution is amended as follows “**The Board, its nominated Director/s or representatives of RSL NSW management***

- may attend District Council meetings ~~upon the giving of reasonable notice~~ **“subject to having given not less than fourteen days prior notice” to the District Council President or Secretary.**; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Ian Bubb – Westpac sub-Branch

The speaker stated that passing this motion will remove any conflicting interpretation of the words “reasonable”.

No delegates spoke against the motion.

Results:

For:	79.78 %
Against:	20.22 %

Motion Carried and Resolution Passed.

9.2.9 Number of Directors on Board

Proposer – Enfield Croydon Park

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended so that:*
- (i) *RSL NSW is governed by a Board of not less than nine and not more than ten Directors; and that*
 - (ii) *at least one (but no more than two) of the Directors are Independent Directors; and that*
 - (iii) *at least eight Directors (including the President) are Elected Directors; and that*
 - (iv) *if a casual vacancy is created from amongst the Elected Directors the Board must fill the casual vacancy in accordance with the Constitution if the next Board Election is more than 12 months away; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

There were no speakers for or against the motion.

Results:

For:	45.86 %
Against:	54.14 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.10 Elected Director Eligibility Criteria

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to provide that the eligibility criteria for an Elected Director includes a provision that to serve as an Elected Director, a person must be a Service Member with at least five years' service Membership within the RSL, noting for clarity that if passed, this special resolution will not affect the eligibility of any Director currently serving on the Board of RSL NSW; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker expressed that it was important for directors to have experience in the processes and workings of sub-Branches and the RSL.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	58.24 %
Against:	41.76 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.11 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Proposer – Gundagai

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended to:*
 - (i) *define SOPs as guidelines setting out best practices to follow this Constitution in governing the operations of the RSL NSW, sub-Branches, District Councils, and any relevant body; and*
 - (ii) *provide that Directors, District Council Delegates, District Councils, District Council Executives, the District Presidents' Council, RSL NSW Members, sub-Branches, sub-Branch Executives and Trustees must comply with any Policy made under the Constitution and may utilise SOPs to meet legislative and Constitutional requirement; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: Keith Wood – Gundagai sub-Branch

The speaker proposed that the strict compliance clause should be removed to allow sub-Branches flexibility in deciding whether or not to apply the SOPs.

Speaker against the motion: Bryan Willey – Lower North Coast District Council

The speaker stated SOPs are step by step instructions. They are not guidelines and should be precise.

Results:

For:	38.8 %
Against:	61.2 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.12 SOP Review, Amendment Proposal and Amendment Approval by DPC

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended:*
 - (i) *to provide that any review or adoption of a SOPs must be conducted in consultation with and approved by the DPC; and that*
 - (ii) *all SOPs must be endorsed by the DPC and then forwarded to the Board for final approval; and that*
 - (iii) *if there is a conflict/difference a joint meeting of the Board and DPC must be held to resolve the conflict or difference; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker requested that the motion be withdrawn as it was overshadowed by 9.2.11 above, however, the speaker acknowledged that he had not obtained approval from members for the motion to be withdrawn and therefore the motion went to vote.

Speaker against the motion: John Greig – Bundeena sub-Branch

The speaker advised that this matter was already proposed in Set 1 of the motions and rejected. He said that it would be crucial that the District Presidents Council retain the approval rights over SOPs and policies failing which the Board would be required to not just have discussions with members, but to actually negotiate acceptable outcomes.

Results:

For:	26.7 %
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Against: 73.3 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.13 Affiliate Members – Eligibility to hold sub-Branch Office

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended to provide that sub-Branch Presidents **AND Vice Presidents** must be Service Members with other officeholders able to be either Service or Affiliate Members of the sub-Branch; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that this motion recognises the representative role of the President of a sub-Branch and acknowledges that when a Vice President takes up Presidential duties, they should also be a service member.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For: 74.86 %

Against: 25.14 %

Motion carried and resolution passed.

9.2.14 Membership Fees

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the clauses in the Constitution relating to RSL NSW Membership fees being prescribed by the Board and the Membership fee split (being the amount payable to ANZAC House and the amount to be retained by the sub-Branch) being determined at any annual general meeting be deleted; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that the clause should be removed as it lacks relevance in a context where there are no membership fees.

Speaker against the motion: Bryan Willey – Lower North Coast District Council

The speaker stated that the clause should stay in the Constitution as it allows the Board flexibility to reintroduce membership fees at a later time.

Results:

For:	34.27 %
Against:	65.73 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.15 Membership Fees to be set at \$5.00

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to prescribe that all RSL NSW Members must pay annual Membership fees of five dollars to the sub-Branch to which they are attached or in relation to Members attached to ANZAC House, to RSL NSW; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that the clause should be introduced as it is considered a way to manage membership each year by putting the onus of renewal onto members and not the secretary of the sub-Branch to solicit membership renewals.

Speaker against the motion: Bryan Willey – Lower North Coast District Council

The speaker stated that the clause should not be introduced in the Constitution as membership renewal is now based on whether a member is active or inactive and that there were alternative ways to confirm whether a member wishes to remain attached to the sub-Branch as a member of the RSL.

Results:

For:	28.65 %
Against:	71.35 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.16 Annual General Meeting and General Meetings Delegate Responsibilities

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) the Constitution be amended to provide that:*
 - (i) each District Council and sub-Branch Delegate (or Alternate) at a general meeting or annual general meeting must familiarise themselves with the Constitution prior to the meeting; and that*
 - (ii) the Delegate is to ensure that any views expressed by the District Council or sub-Branch which he/she represents are conveyed to the meeting irrespective of their personal opinion; and that*
 - (iii) Delegates must vote in accordance with the direction of the sub-Branch provided at a general meeting of the sub-Branch which direction may include a right for the Delegate to be influenced by the debate at the annual general meeting or the general meeting and amend their vote subject to their doing so in good faith, in the best interests of the sub-Branch and reporting back to the sub-Branch; and that*
- (b) the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that the purpose of this motion is to ensure that any speaker at a Congress/AGM/GM is expressing the view of the sub-Branch and not individual member views.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For: 53.55 %

Against: 46.45 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.17 Conduct of Annual General Meeting – Role of the Chair

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to provide that:*
 - (i) the President will preside as chair of an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting; and that*

- (ii) *if the President is not present, the Directors must choose another Elected Director as chair; and that*
- (iii) *the chair is responsible for the conduct of the meeting in accordance with this Annexure C and the SOPs; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker for this motion stated their belief that these directives should be in the Constitution and not in the SOPs.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	49.45 %
Against:	50.55 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.18 Conduct of Annual General Meeting – Content of Annual General Meeting

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution be amended to provide that the Annual General Meeting of RSL NSW must include:*
 - (i) *a report by the President;*
 - (ii) *debate and voting on all resolutions and motions proposed and approved in accordance with the Constitution;*
 - (iii) *presentation of the financial statements from the previous financial year and a report by the Board in relation to financial statements;*
 - (iv) *a presentation of an auditor's report;*
 - (v) *a comprehensive annual report; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that the motion was important to ensure that all relevant business is covered at the AGM/Congress.

Speaker against the motion: Bryan Willey– Lower North Coast District Council

The speaker stated that there was no reason to add a clause amending the Constitution when these matters are already addressed at the AGM/Congress.

Results:

For: 40 %
Against: 60 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.19 Adjourning Meetings where Technical Difficulties

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the RSL NSW Constitution is amended to provide that if there is a technical difficulty at an Annual General Meeting or General Meeting and that meeting is being held by teleconference or remotely, the meeting must be adjourned as opposed to the current position where the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting in the place where the chair is present; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that this motion was important to ensure that everyone who wanted to participate in a meeting could do so as opposed to the participation being at the Chair's discretion.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For: 62.09 %
Against: 37.91 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.20 Tribunal Notification

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the Constitution be amended to expressly state that where a matter is being referred to the RSL NSW Tribunal, the Board must provide the person or party being referred with full details of the allegations supporting the referral; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that currently the form of a tribunal referral does not prescribe inclusion of details of the allegations, only the allegations.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	54.95 %
Against:	45.05 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.21 Tribunal Limitation

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) *the Constitution be amended to expressly state that the RSL NSW Tribunal may only consider the matter referred to it by the RSL NSW Board as it relates to clause 17.3 of the Constitution; and that*
- (b) *the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker stated that while the Tribunal is bound by procedural fairness, however, the rules are not published anywhere, and the motion limits the amount of investigation that the Tribunal is allowed to conduct when questioning a respondent.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	51.1 %
Against:	48.9 %

Motion Lost.

9.2.22 CEO Representation at Tribunal

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered as a special resolution requiring a constitutional majority of two thirds present and entitled to vote to be passed:

THAT:

- (a) the Constitution be amended to provide:*
 - (i) that the CEO will forward evidence collected by State Branch staff on matters referred to the RSL NSW Tribunal by the RSL NSW Board; and that*
 - (ii) any evidence and submissions must be provided to the RSL NSW Tribunal and the Respondent not less than seven days prior to the Disciplinary Meeting; and that*
- (b) the Board of RSL NSW arrange for the wording of the Constitution to be so amended and for the relevant amended Constitution instrument to be circulated to Members by no later than 3 months prior to the 2022 AGM.*

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker advised that given the motion at 9.1 did not pass, there was no reason to move forward with this motion. RJ advised that it could be considered by members with a view to amending the 2019 Constitution, so the matter should go to the vote.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	50 %
Against:	50 %

Motion Lost.

9.3 Set 3: Motions Requiring Further Review

9.3.1 Renumber Constitution

Proposer – FWMDC

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT the Board will:

- (a) consult with Members in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution set out below;*
- (b) arrange for that proposed amendment to be discussed at the 2022 AGM; and then*
- (c) arrange for that proposed amendment to be considered in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of the 2023 AGM.*

Proposed Amendment:

To renumber the RSL NSW Constitution in public service numbering style as follows:

- 1. Title
 - SubTitle (if needed)
 - 1.1 Sub-Clause
 - 1.1.1 sub-sub-clause
 - 1.1.1.1 sub-sub-sub-clause
 - 1.1.1.1.1 sub-sub-sub-sub-clause

Speaker for the motion: David Ingram – Far Western Metropolitan District Council

The speaker advised the meeting that these changes will make it easier to refer to matters in and read the Constitution. The speaker advised the meeting that the motion was put in the third group of Constitutional motions by ANZAC House for consideration by Members and not by the proposers of the amendment and that the speaker felt that this was a change that could easily be adopted by members.

There were no speakers against the motion.

Results:

For:	50 %
Against:	50 %

Motion Lost.

9.3.2 One Member One Vote at Annual General Meeting/General Meeting

Proposer – Castle Hill & District RSL sub-Branch via FWMDC

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT the Board will:

- (a) *consult with Members in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution set out below;*
- (b) *arrange for that proposed amendment to be discussed at the 2022 AGM; and then*
- (c) *arrange for that proposed amendment to be considered in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of the 2023 AGM.*

Proposed Amendment

To amend the RSL NSW Constitution to introduce a one vote one member regime for all voting on motions at Annual General Meetings and General Meetings.

There were no speakers for the motion.

Speaker against the motion: Todd Vercoe – Bowraville sub-Branch

The speaker advised the meeting that this motion will disadvantage smaller, regional sub-Branches and create a scenario where larger metropolitan sub-

Branches will have a disproportionate say in what happens in smaller regional sub-Branches.

Results:

For: 16.48 %
Against: 83.52 %

Motion Lost.

9.3.3 Sub-Branch with Less than 10 Service Members

Proposer – RSL NSW Board

The following motion was considered (simple majority):

THAT the Board will:

- (a) *consult with Members in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution set out below;*
- (b) *arrange for that proposed amendment to be discussed at the 2022 AGM; and then*
- (c) *arrange for that proposed amendment to be considered in accordance with the Constitution for the purposes of the 2023 AGM.*

Proposed Amendment

That if the number of Service Members attached to a sub-Branch falls below ten at any time, the sub-Branch must consult with RSL NSW to either:

- (a) *establish a Chapter of another sub-Branch or amalgamate with another sub-Branch; or*
- (b) *if a sub-Branch is unable to establish a Chapter or to amalgamate cease to be a sub-Branch and return its Charter to RSL NSW.*

Speaker for the motion: Sophie Ray – Chair RSL NSW

The speaker advised that the motion is self-explanatory and if passed will trigger member consultation on the issue. She explained that the issue arises from the increasing number of small sub-Branches who find it increasingly difficult to find volunteers and manage their various compliance obligations.

Speaker against the motion: John Greig – Bundeena sub-Branch

The speaker stated that passing this motion will have a long-term impact on small communities in which smaller sub-Branches operate and that it is not good policy to encourage the closure of sub-Branches in towns where the next sub-Branch was 100kms away necessitating travel for quite possibly aged veterans.

Results:

For: 40.76 %
Against: 59.24 %

Motion Lost.

PATRON
ADDRESS

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW addressed the Congress.

MERITORIOUS
SERVICE MEDAL

Edmund Smith, Caringbah RSL sub-Branch
Gary Tomkins, Belfield RSL sub-Branch
Paul Bryant, City of Fairfield RSL sub-Branch
Colin Wilson, Windsor & District RSL sub-Branch

RJ thanked Her Excellency for honouring the members with a presentation at Government House.

LIFE
MEMBERSHIP

John Westerby Bailey, Sawtell RSL sub-Branch
Thomas Banister, Dungog RSL sub-Branch
John Bridle OAM RFD (Rtd), Dee Why RSL sub-Branch
David Keith Crouch, Gresford RSL sub-Branch
The Late Wallace Edwards, Harbord RSL sub-Branch
Anthony Fryer, St Marys RSL sub-Branch
Elizabeth Ann Garland, Lakemba RSL sub-Branch
Graeme Greyson, Woolgoolga RSL sub-Branch
Kevin Hagan, Bondi Junction/Waverley RSL sub-Branch
Reginald Hearne, Wagga Wagga RSL sub-Branch
Sydney Lynch, Cardiff RSL sub-Branch
James Park, Balmain Rozelle RSL sub-Branch
Gary Roser, Bass Hill RSL sub-Branch
Bevin Router, Woy Woy-Ettalong-Hardys Bay RSL sub-Branch
Peter Douglas Smyth, War Veterans Village RSL sub-Branch
Gary Spencer, Port Macquarie RSL sub-Branch
Keith Tucker, Harbord RSL sub-Branch
William Charles Wright, Oatley RSL sub-Branch

LIFE
MEMBERSHIP
RSL AUXILIARY

Yvonne Bleach, Bundeena RSL Auxiliary
Patricia Buttenshaw, Sawtell RSL Auxiliary
Grace Franks, Manilla RSL Auxiliary
Mair Fullerton, East Maitland RSL Auxiliary
Sally Ann Maslen, Bundeena RSL Auxiliary
Patricia Parker, Sawtell RSL Auxiliary
Patricia Perry, Ingleburn RSL Auxiliary
Linda Whieldon, Ingleburn RSL Auxiliary

The Lady Woodward Cup was awarded to Penshurst RSL Auxiliary, for the highest amount raised for RSL DefenceCare in 2021.

VOTE OF
THANKS:

RJ offered a vote of thanks to those involved in managing the arrangements for the congress.

MINUTES (cont'd):

RJ advised that the minutes of the AGM would be available on the website by 17 December 2021.

CLOSURE:

RJ declared the meeting closed at 5.09 pm.

Approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX B MOTIONS REGISTER

Appendix B Motions Register

Motion	Action	Status
Motion 8 (2019)		
That RSL NSW approach the Department of Veterans' Affairs to lobby that the Medical fraternity and its associated bodies be allowed to receive the same rate of compensation for services rendered to veterans who either possess a White Card or Gold Card as they would for persons treated under the Government's Workcover agreement.	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with Australian Medical Association (AMA)	Completed
	AMA confirmation fee schedule issue	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with NVAC, to then be passed to ESORT	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Medical fees under DVA being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.		
Motion 9 (2019)		
That RSL NSW investigate excessive waiting time for veterans seeking psychiatric appointments.	Contact Ben Folino at Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) re. waiting times and DVA fee schedules	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with NVAC, to then be passed to ESORT	Completed
	Raise issue of DVA fee schedules with DVA via Deputy Commissioner's Forum	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Waiting times for psychiatric appointments being discussed at ESORT and through the Royal Commission.		
Motion 11 (2019)		
That RSL NSW take action to address with Government the issue of Defence pensions being included in the calculation of the gross value of ex-Defence members Self-Managed Super Funds and the imposition thereof of tax at 15% for any values above the newly set cap.	Contact ATO re. the calculation of the gross value of ex-Defence members' Self-Managed Super Funds	Completed
	Form partnership with Australian Defence Force Retirees Association (ADFRA)	Completed
	Chase ATO advice	Completed
	Respond to ATO	Completed
	Contact with Minister	Completed
	Chase ATO advice	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Ongoing
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Response from Treasury clarifies that the cap only applies to a very small proportion of taxpayers that have very high total superannuation balances, that the income tax legislation applies to all taxpayers equally, and that there are no plans to revisit the current rules in respect of the taxation of military superannuation benefits received by members of Self-Managed Super Funds.		

Motion 13 (2019)		
That the NSW Government be lobbied to accept DVA File Numbers to access concessions in NSW in place of a Centrelink/DHS Customer Reference Number (CRN).	Contact OVA	Completed
	Contact Minister and response	Completed
	Update from raising sub-Branch	Completed
	Follow-up contact with Minister	Completed
	Closed with SB	Completed
Outcome Achieved: The NSW Government accepts DVA file numbers to access concessions.		
Motion 20 (2019)		
That the Returned and Services League of Australia calls on The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister of Australia, to transfer responsibility for the identification, protection and interpretation, of our wartime heritage along the Kokoda Trail from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).	Draft letter to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the issue.	Completed
	Response from PM and FM on the issue	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: Response from the Federal Government has reiterated that DFAT will continue to manage the protection and maintenance of the Kokoda Track. However, DFAT has committed to working with DVA under a \$10 million program to commemorate the bonds between Australia and Papua New Guinea on proposed projects, tourism, military heritage, health, safety and livelihoods.		
Motion 22 (2019)		
That RSL NSW makes representations to the Law Society of NSW to approve Volunteer category practicing certificates for lawyers working pro bono with accredited veterans' advocacy centres and not just with community legal centres.	Draft letter for NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA)/Law Society NSW regarding the issue	Completed
	Response from OVA	Completed
	Update raising sub-Branch	Completed
	To close with sub-Branch blessing	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs and Law Society NSW determined that it was not possible to implement the motion as written under current legislation or under current requirements.		
Motion 21 (2019)		
That the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) request RSL National to make representation to the Federal Government and Minister for Defence to recommend to the Governor General that the following amendment be made to the determination under the Anniversary of National Service Medal 1951 - 1972 regulation: Members of the Merchant Navy / Mercantile Marine who registered for National Service, had that service deferred by the Minister and then had that capability of volunteering removed due to the nature of their Mercantile Marine service being in the public interest; satisfies the requirements applicable to be awarded the medal.	Contact with RSL National	Completed
	RSL National contact with Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal	Completed
	Follow-up with RSL National – 3 rd time – Advised by RSL National Board they would not raise matter further	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL National has determined that due to the number of previous reviews, they would not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW is working with Gresford sub-Branch to determine what steps will be taken next.		

Motion 35 (2018)		
That RSL NSW make representations to the Australian Government to include former Citizen Military Forces (CMF) together with current and former Reservists in Non-Liability Health Care provisions (as detailed in Factsheet HSV109 Non-Liability Health Care).	Contact DVA – find out what the justification for current policy is	Completed
	Raise matter with NVAC/National	Completed
	Raise issue with ESORT	Completed
	Raise matter with Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Ongoing
	Raise matter with Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: This matter is ongoing, with several National ESOs pressuring both the Government and the Opposition to introduce NLHC for all Reservists.		
Motion 2 (2021)		
That RSL NSW liaises with NSW Health and other relevant departments to enable RSL NSW sub-Branch wellbeing support officers to support veterans admitted to NSW public hospitals through:	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Initial contact with OVA, Hunter Health, NSW Health and Legacy	Completed
	Follow up contact with OVA and NSW Health	Ongoing
	Rollout to all LHDs through NSW Health Minister	Not started
(a) being informed that a veteran has been admitted to hospital;	Comms to SBs advising of process	Not started
(b) being informed that a veteran is willing to be contacted by an RSL NSW wellbeing support officer through:		
(i) using a check box on the admission form to record the veteran's wishes; and		
(ii) the hospital alerting an RSL NSW Wellbeing Support Officer via a designated telephone number; and		
(c) clearance to visit the veteran during their stay in hospital using NSW Health protocols; and		
(d) assisting the veteran to connect to local support or services they need.		
Outcome Achieved: Hunter New England Health District has made it clear they have a veteran identifier on their intake forms, and suitably qualified and RSL-endorsed wellbeing support officers are able to visit veterans in hospital with the veteran's consent. RSL NSW is working to have this process implemented in all Local Health Districts across NSW, and discussions are ongoing.		
Motion 3 (2021)		
That RSL NSW ask the Federal Government to consider the proposal from the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association (AATTVA) TPI WA Branch that a non means tested, tax free service pension for all TPI recipients, regardless of age be implemented and that the disparity between widower pensions and the current TPI payment, should be addressed by increasing the payment to the full TPI amount.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Raised to NVAC	Completed
	Raised to ESORT	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: The matter is currently being considered by ESORT. It should also be noted that an increase in TPI was part of the Federal Budget for FY22/23.		

Motion 4 (2021)		
That RSL NSW support the issuing of a second Vietnam Service medal, currently reserved for those veterans who served at least 180 days in country, to all Vietnam veterans, irrespective of time in country.	Initial Contact	Completed
	VSPC Approval for plan	Completed
	Raised at NVAC	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	NVAC determined not to raise the issue further, due to number of past determinations rejecting the application	Completed
	Comms to SBs advising of process and to determine next steps	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: RSL National has determined that due to the number of previous reviews, they would not pursue the matter further. RSL NSW is working with Gresford sub-Branch to determine what steps will be taken next.		
Motion 5 (2021)		
That RSL NSW consult with the Premier of New South Wales to have the War Memorial situated on the marble wall in the entrance to the former Maritime Services Board building returned to its former glory by arranging the removal of a multi paneled painting which conceals the War Memorial.	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	VSPC support for actions	Completed
	Initial letters drafted to MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Completed
	Receive response from MCA , Premier and Minister for Arts	Completed
	Raise in face-to-face meeting with NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Completed
	NSW Veterans' Affairs Minister raise matter with MCA	Completed
	Await response from MCA	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: The NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs has indicated strong support for this motion. Awaiting response to the Minister's advocacy to MCA to determine if there is a possible pathway forward.		
Motion 8.3 (2021)		
That RSL NSW develops a plan to facilitate recruiting in NSW for new Members.	Pursuant to RSL NSW Strategic Plan Goal 3; Initiative 3.3 ANZAC House has developed a recruitment strategy and Communications & Marketing Plan for 2022-2023.	Completed
Outcome Achieved: RSL NSW relaunched the Reveille to include digital content and introduced free, online membership in September 2021. By May 2022, more members had joined than the total number of new members joined last year. While we're seeing significant new membership numbers, we're also seeing demographic changes. Since the introduction of the online membership process, the average age of new members has been reduced by more than six years.		

Motion 8.4 (2021)		
	New members can select to join 'ANZAC House' as opposed to an RSL sub-Branch. Members of ANZAC House will receive correspondence from RSL NSW including the Reveille, monthly e-newsletter and all other member communication.	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: By offering 'virtual membership' ANZAC House members can be connected to services and support and find out more about what the RSL can offer them, and hopefully encourage them to become a member of a sub-Branch.		
Motion 9 (2021)		
<p>That RSL NSW approach RSL National for the purposes of RSL National expanding the Charitable Purpose to include persons:</p> <p>(a) who are veterans within the definition in the <i>Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019</i>; and</p> <p>(b) who have served or are serving as a member of the Armed Forces of:</p> <p>(i) any country presently or formerly a member of the British Commonwealth;</p> <p>(ii) any country or place presently or formerly a Crown Colony of the United Kingdom;</p> <p>(iii) the United States of America; or</p> <p>(c) to whom (a) or (b) does not apply but who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and who in a theatre of conflict:</p> <p>(i) either served with, supported or was otherwise engaged with the Australian Defence Force or the Armed Forces of those countries or places referred to in paragraph (b) above; or</p> <p>(ii) served as a member of the Armed Forces of another country or place which, during that time of conflict, was an ally of the Commonwealth.</p>	Initial Contact	Completed
	Initial Meeting	Completed
	Matter raised to NVAC	Completed
	Rewrite Initial paper	Completed
	Re-raise matter to NVAC	Completed
	Raise matter to RSL Australia Board	Ongoing
Outcome Achieved: The motion is before the RSL National Board for consideration. If it is accepted, the Charitable Purpose of RSL Australia will be amended.		