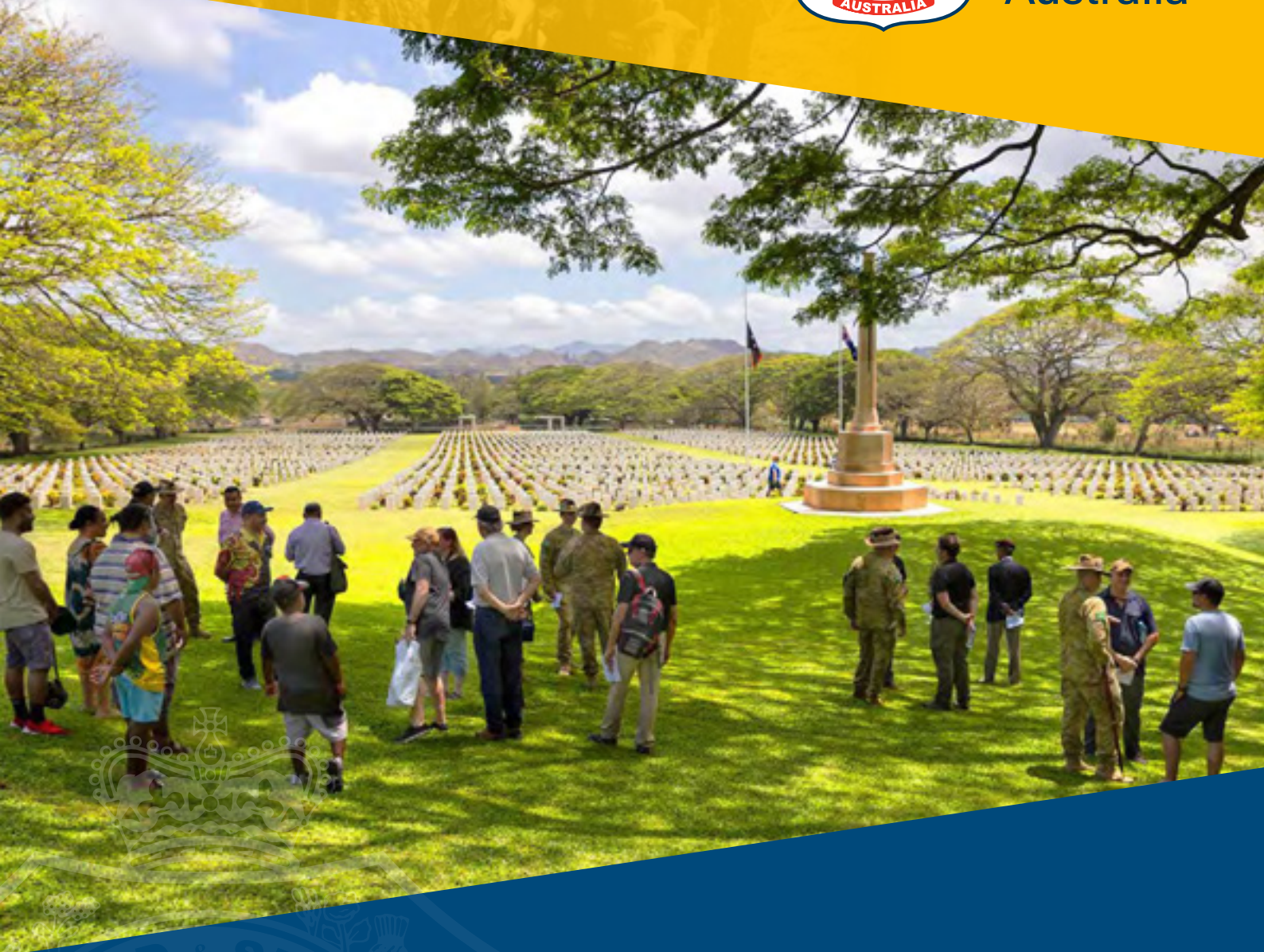




RSL
Australia



2022

NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.

OUR VISION

Together, our vision is to help Australia's Veterans and Defence families enjoy better opportunities in all aspects of their lives.

OUR MISSION

To provide on behalf of Australia's Veterans and Defence families national advocacy, supportive and co-ordinated national programs and activities, more funding and optimised management of the RSL brand.

ABOUT US

RSL Australia is a federation of its independent State Branches who in turn are comprised of their Sub-Branches.

The RSL's National Office shapes the national agenda on veterans affairs on behalf of the RSL's State Branches. It provides national advocacy on behalf of current and past serving men, women and their families. It supports and coordinates national programs and activities. It owns and manages the RSL brand.

RSL Australia is overseen by a National Board comprising representatives of each State Branch supported by independent Board members.

State Branches and their Sub-Branches deliver a diverse range of services which are tailored to reflect the priorities and needs of veterans in each State.

Patron	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
National President	Major General Greg Melick AO RFD SC (Retd)
Deputy National President	Mr John King
Chief Executive Officer	Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC

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National President's Report

2022 was another busy year, marked by the relaxing of many COVID-19 restrictions, and our State Branches and Sub-Branches rose to the challenge to meet the needs of their members and make sure no one felt left behind. RSL Australia remains committed to our diverse range of programs and initiatives which enable the RSL to better serve our current membership and the next generation of veterans and their families.

Throughout this year, we have been deeply involved with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide attending hearings around the country and making extensive, detailed submissions and comments on behalf of the veteran community, and implementing projects to address some of the known issues. We will continue to take a prominent position as the Royal Commission continues into 2023.

Acknowledging the important role of Ex-service Organisations (ESOs) in the ongoing care of our veteran community, this year the RSL facilitated and hosted an inaugural National ESO Forum aimed at driving better coordination within the ESO sector and bringing together the collective thinking of Australia's leading ESOs. The group discussed the need for greater alignment across the sector to ensure better outcomes for veterans and established some collective agreement on some key issues. A report has been published and an action plan will be pursued.

The RSL is consistently pro-active in advocating for veterans. Our website demonstrates the extent of commentary on current issues as diverse as early calls for government assistance for Afghan interpreters, to demand-driven funding, mental health support, and proactive medical treatment for our veterans.

RSL Australia welcomed the release of the 2021 Census data which provided new insights into the nation's veteran population and revealed the regions with the highest populations of current and former serving Australian Defence Force personnel. These insights about the Defence and veteran population and their needs will enable the RSL to provide better targeted support and resources across the country.

This year, the passing of our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was a significant event felt by all members who particularly valued her association with and patronage of the League for more than 70 years. Her Majesty's passing was a moment of great sadness, but it was also a time to reflect on her unstinting service and contribution to Australia, Great Britain, and all the nations of the Commonwealth. I was honoured to represent the RSL and our members at Her Majesty's funeral in London's Westminster Abbey. We are now seeking the support of King Charles III to succeed his mother as the RSL's National Patron.

Along with our major observances of ANZAC and Remembrance Day, the RSL supported many other anniversaries and commemorations including the 80th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign this year. We continued to support our veteran community through a range of national programs and services, including the RSL Veterans' Employment Program, and RSL Active.

This is just a small snapshot of the considerable work the RSL is doing, both nationally and through its State Branches and Sub-Branches to support and serve veterans and their families.



GREG MELICK
National President

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

National Chairman's Report

The most recent year has been one of considerable progress for the RSL nationally against a backdrop of constant change.

Our National office led by Phil Winter has brought much energy to our core challenge of enhancing the lives of our veterans and their families. Over the last year there has been an inevitable focus on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

We continue to advocate strongly where and when it matters on behalf of our veterans, we continue to help the wider community commemorate and better understand the contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans and we continue to roll out our programs targeted at enhancing the lives of our veterans.

We are grateful to our key stakeholders including the Department of Veterans' Affairs for financially supporting our core programs.

I am grateful to Maria Storti, who chairs our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee with a strong focus on best practice. I am also grateful to our retiring Independent Director, Madeline Dermatossian for her outstanding contribution.

Our financials for the last year were in line with expectations and we remain financially robust.

There is still much to do to help the RSL fulfil its true potential and I hope as National Chairman to play a small role in helping that happen.



DAVID NATHAN
Chairman

National CEO's Report

2022 was another successful year for RSL Australia. Like so many organisations there were many unforeseen demands for the RSL when adjusting to the post-pandemic environment, while still providing services for our veterans. Of particular note was the commencement of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, and ensuring the League offers full support to the Commissioners in their important work.

The RSL has demonstrated leadership by facilitating an inaugural ESO Forum which was established to coordinate and discuss the findings and emerging recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The first forum was held in Canberra in November with over 50 ESOs represented.

The year was also marked by the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in mid- 2022 for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, soon to be overshadowed in September by the Monarch's passing. The RSL has been honoured to have the Queen as our Patron for seven decades, and appropriate reverence was seen across the League including the attendance by our National President at Her Majesty's funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Throughout 2022 the RSL continued with a range of reforms to enhance our governance and the League has achieved many positive outcomes across the nation in its ongoing role to support our veterans and their families. The League's voice too, in shaping the national discussion on security, veterans' services and defence preparedness, continues to be a vital component of our advocacy role.

With a century of service behind us, the League's numbers are steady across the States and Territories of Australia, with 1,107 Sub-Branched spread across Australia. We continue to advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women, to provide support and assistance on a regional, state and national basis to all our members, and to adapt existing programs and design new initiatives for support and advocacy services for all

veterans. The League recognises the need to adapt and attract younger veterans, noting it is important to remember that our support extends not just to members of the RSL, but to all those who have served their country.

The RSL continues its productive relationship with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defence, particularly around the subject of transition into civilian life. The League has helped advocate for veterans on the sensitive subjects of the Brereton Report into incidents in Afghanistan.

The League has partnered with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to expand employment programs to provide meaningful, sustainable career opportunities for ex-ADF members and their families, and in 2022 completed a partnership with Open Arms to provide workshops for families and veterans regarding improved mental health. 2022 also saw the re-emergence of RSL Active to better coordinate sports and recreational activities across the League.

We look forward to 2023 with optimism. There is much to be done at all levels within the League to ensure we continue to provide valued assistance to serving and former ADF personnel and their families. As the largest ESO in Australia, the League continues to focus on this key mission – whilst recalling the long-held notion of the RSL that the 'price of liberty is eternal vigilance.'



PHIL WINTER
Chief Executive Officer



Royal Commission Interim Report

RSL Australia was heavily involved in the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide throughout 2022, convening a dedicated working group comprised of members of all State Branches, to proactively engage in the Commission's work and provide supporting submissions and evidence. RSL representatives attended all Hearing Blocks throughout the year, which spanned Sydney, Canberra, Townsville, Hobart, Darwin, and Wagga Wagga, to understand firsthand the themes, sentiment and issues arising from the evidence presented. As a member of the Royal Commission's Stakeholder Reference Group, the RSL provided ongoing support and subject matter expertise directly to the Royal Commissioners, at the same time as engaging with the inquiry's work.

The Royal Commission's August 2022 Interim Report demonstrates the scale of the challenge confronting all those working for the wellbeing of veterans and their families. The urgent and immediate recommendations contained within the Interim Report are sensible, significant, and vital. In particular, the RSL strongly supported the Commissioners' calls for legislative reform, and the work thus far by the Government and the Department of Veterans' Affairs towards the reform.

Public Hearings of the Royal Commission will continue in 2023, as will work between the RSL community and the inquiry. The RSL is committed to working together with the Royal Commission and the entire Defence and veteran community to understand, reduce, and eventually eliminate, Defence and veteran suicide.

RSL Ambassadors' Report

RSL Ambassador Pete Rudland had a busy year in 2022 representing the RSL at the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide hearings. He attended the first few days of the sitting blocks in Sydney, Canberra, Townsville, and Hobart and conducted media briefings across all media platforms.

Pete was particularly busy around ANZAC Day. He attended the Sydney ANZAC March, participated in the Lest We Forget Concert at the Sydney Town Hall, and on 26 April he spoke to the students and staff at Terranora Primary School on the importance and value of ANZAC Day. A feature story about Pete as an RSL Ambassador was aired during the WA ABC ANZAC Day march coverage in Perth.

In November Pete spoke at the painSTAR Conference in South Australia about the effects of chronic pain on the defence and veteran community. He was also invited by Defence to speak at an RLSA Remembrance Day breakfast event. The following day he spoke at the Currumbin RSL QLD Remembrance Day lunch on the importance of remembering.

Cherisa (CJ) Pearce is delighted to continue in her role as RSL Ambassador.

CJ works within communities to inspire younger members to join the League, liaises with other ESOs and seeks a broader perspective on veterans' issues. CJ also engages with the community through the social media space and has represented the RSL at many activities during the year including at the Kirra Longboard Klassic on the Gold Coast.

The time, energy, and ideas she continues to bring to the role make her a valued team member.

RSL Australia is immensely grateful for the support and representation both CJ and Pete provide on a volunteer basis.



Pete Rudland
RSL Ambassador



Cherisa (CJ) Pearce
RSL Ambassador

VOLUNTEERS

*Where would our organisation be without our volunteers?
From its genesis, the backbone of the League has been the willingness of thoughtful and diligent people bound together by one ideal - promoting the interests and welfare of serving and ex-serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants.*

In support of National Volunteers week, and to acknowledge the vital role that volunteers play in the delivery of many services to members of the veteran community, staff members of RSL Australia's National Office & ACT Branch posted these photos to show their support.



PHIL WINTER - CEO



LAURIE CARTIER



JAN ORMEROD



CYNDY JAKOBI



ANTONIA NEWCOMB



KIM HICKS - ACT CEO

**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
WE ARE #BETTERTOGETHER**



OVERVIEW & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

For over one hundred years, RSL Australia has provided a support network, services and an organisation of camaraderie and recognition for current and ex-serving members.

An ethos of compassion and service remains the motivating influence of the League. Our core mission has never changed and has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

RSL Australia today supports public debate, education, and has increased public awareness of issues relating to the Veterans' Affairs portfolio. RSL Australia also serves as a sounding board for the Government in the development of policy and practice.

The National Office of the League is situated in Canberra. Whilst each State and Territory have a Branch Headquarters to serve the grassroots members, the RSL National Office's role is to coordinate and promote the national interests of the organisation, making representations to Parliamentarians, Government, various Government Departments, and to other bodies.

Throughout Australia the RSL provides a broad range of programs and services to support current and former ADF members and their families.



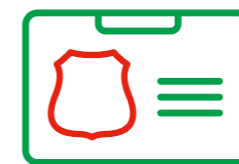
ESTABLISHED IN 1916
to support veterans



7 STATE & TERRITORY BRANCHES



1,107 SUB-BRANCHES



OVER 147,000 MEMBERS



OVER 66,000 HOURS
of support, community & wellbeing services provided each year



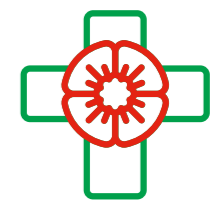
OVER 370,500 HOURS
advocating for veteran compensation each year



OVER \$13,300,000
spent on veteran welfare services each year



97 SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS
offered worth \$750,000



OVER 2,500
commemorative events led by RSL each year

Note: Statistics are estimates based on collaborative National and State data

Tribute to our National Patron

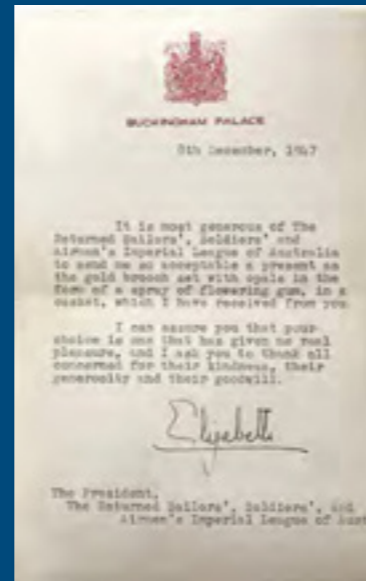
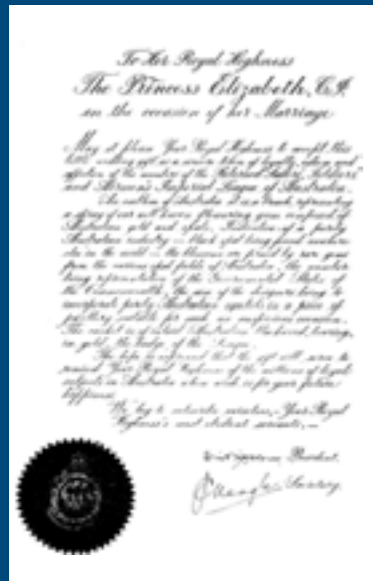
2022 marked the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's patronage of the RSL.

Just a few months after her accession to the throne in 1952, Her Majesty kindly agreed to endow her patronage of what was then known as the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia.

National President Greg Melick said the passing of Her Majesty will be felt by all veterans who particularly valued her association with and patronage of the League. She was a unique monarch and an outstanding Patron, and the RSL will be forever grateful for her commitment, encouragement and support for our veterans and service personnel.

After having recently marked the joyous occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee when RSL State Branches and Sub-Branches throughout Australia were illuminated in purple to mark her extraordinary reign, it was with great sadness we found ourselves acknowledging her passing and reflecting on her unstinting service and contribution to Australia, Great Britain and all the nations of the Commonwealth.

As one of Her Majesty the Queen's long-standing Patronages, the RSL was invited to be represented at the funeral, and the National President accepted the great honour to represent the organisation and Australia's veterans at the funeral.



Her Majesty pictured wearing a brooch of rare precious opals sets in a spray of Australian gum leaves. The Percy Mark creation was commissioned by the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia and presented to the Princess Elizabeth in a casket of Australian Blackwood as a wedding gift.

The RSL's Special Wedding Gift to Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth

In 1947, the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia sent the then Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth a special wedding gift as a token of the League's loyalty and best wishes for her marriage.

The League commissioned a special brooch by Percy Marks featuring rare Australian opals set in a gold spray of Australian Gum Leaves, known as the Australian Opal Spray Brooch.

The brooch was encased in a casket made from Australian Blackwood bearing the badge of the League.

An emblem of Australia, the brooch included the well known symbol of our flowering gum, composed of Australian gold, and opals from the various opal fields of Australia, the number being representative of the States of the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty the Queen wore the brooch on many special occasions, bringing great joy to the League whenever she wore it.

Royal Visit and ANZAC Day Her Majesty the Queen Visits RSL National Headquarters

Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princess Anne, made an official visit to Australia in 1970 as guests of honour for the bi-centenary celebrations of Captain Cook's landing.

On ANZAC Day, Her Majesty, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, were guests of the League at a reception at the National Headquarters in Canberra. Present to receive them were representatives of all States of Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Those who attended numbered in their ranks men and women who had served in all wars in which Australia had participated since the turn of the 20th century, and all Services. Representatives were also present from all other national ESOs.



The National President, Sir Arthur Lee KB MCE, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh watch as Her Majesty signs the visitor's book at the National Headquarters on Anzac Day 1970.

ABOUT US

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National President
Deputy National President
Company Secretary

Greg Melick AO RFD SC
John King
Phil Winter AM CSC ADC

STATE PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory Branch President
New South Wales Branch President
Queensland Branch President
South Australia/Northern Territory Branch President
Tasmania Branch President
Victoria Branch President
Western Australia Branch President

John King
Ray James OAM
Stephen Day DSC AM
Cheryl Cates
Barry Quinn
Robert Webster OAM
Duncan Anderson

NATIONAL BOARD



National President
Greg Melick AO RFD SC



Deputy National President
Member Director ACT Branch
John King



Chairman
(Non-Member Director)
David Nathan



Member Director NSW Branch
Ray James OAM/Bryan Slattery
[until August]/[from September]



Member Director QLD Branch
Jamie Whitehead



Member Director SA/NT Branch
Cheryl Cates



Member Director TAS Branch
Barry Quinn/Ross Byrne
[until February]/[from March]



Member Director VIC Branch
Robert Webster OAM



Member Director WA Branch
Duncan Anderson



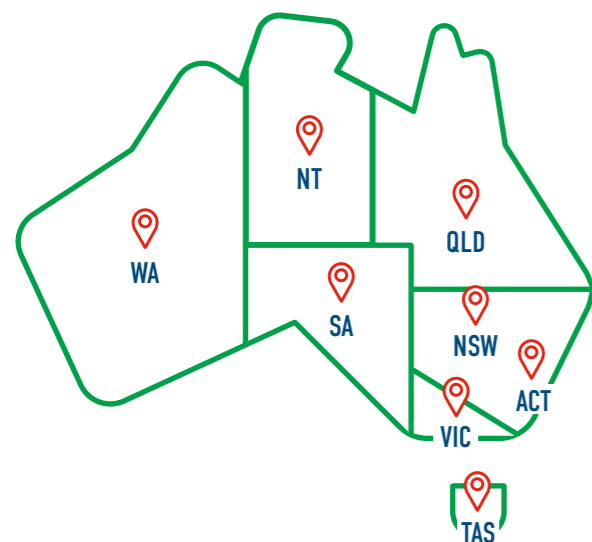
Non-Member Director
Madeline Dermatossian
[until October]



Non-Member Director
Maria Storti

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

as at 31 December 2022



ACT/OVERSEAS		NSW	
Members	588	Members	23,553
Affiliates	93	Affiliates	3,270
Total Members	681	Total Members	26,823
QLD		SA/NT	
Members	33,296	Members	3,527
Affiliates	0	Affiliates	4,542
Total Members	33,296	Total Members	8,069
TAS		VIC	
Members	1,724	Members	23,147
Affiliates	1,306	Affiliates	43,682
Total Members	3,030	Total Members	66,829
WA			
Members	6,957		
Affiliates	1,986		
Total Members	8,943		

“Retention is important – members’ expectations need to be understood and met: they all need a sense of belonging and pride in their involvement.”

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
 Executive Operations Officer
 National Executive Support Manager
 National Manager Accounts & Corporate Finance
 Executive Secretariat Officer
 Operational Support Officer
 Ceremonial & Commemoration Officer
 National Brand & Marketing
 National Veteran’s Affairs Committee Advisor
 National Manager RSL Veterans’ Employment Program

Administrative Officer, RSL Veteran’s Employment Program
 Mental Health Training Program Coordinator
 National Communications & Marketing Advisors

Phil Winter AM CSC ADC
 Laurie Cartier [until October]
 Jan Ormerod
 Kristy Howarth
 Karen Hardiman [from March]
 Fiona MacDonald
 David Bridgfoot
 Jo Schmid
 Michael Annett
 Suzie Michaelis [until September]
 Elle Wilman [from September]
 Ian Smith [from September]
 Cyndy Jakobi
 Jodine La Pere
 Antonia Newcomb

REGISTERED OFFICES

National Office RSL Australia 137/81 Constitution Ave CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Phone: (02) 6280 4079	Postal Address PO Box 30 CAMPBELL ACT 2612
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ANNUAL STATISTICS TOTALS

	RSL Membership		Womens’ Auxiliary/Auxiliary	
	Membership	Sub-Branches	Membership	Sub-Branches
2022	147,671	1,107	2,305	229
2021	146,597	1,137	3,455	224
2020	150,205	1,154	3,672	229
2019	158,873	1,183	3,629	238
2018	161,849	1,192	4,080	243
2017	167,120	1,207	4,232	263
2016	168,734	1,157	5,485	273
2015	170,858	1,215	4,634	289

STATE BRANCHES

ACT 137/81 Constitution Ave CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Postal: PO Box 30 CAMPBELL ACT 2612 Phone: (02) 9161 7690	NSW ANZAC House Suite 11.02, Level 11 175 Pitt Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9264 8188	QLD 283 St Paul’s Terrace FORTITUDE VALLEY Postal: PO Box 629 SPRINGHILL QLD 4004 Phone: (07) 3634 9444
SA ANZAC House Torrens Training Depot Victoria Drive ADELAIDE SA 5000 Phone: (08) 8100 7300	TAS 206 New Town Rd NEW TOWN TAS 7008 Postal: PO Box 147 NEW TOWN TAS 7008 Phone: (03) 6242 8900	VIC ANZAC House 4 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 Phone: (03) 9655 5555
WA Level 4, 28 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 Postal: PO Box Z5424 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6831 Phone: (08) 9287 3799		

RSL NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

LTCOL W K Bolton CBE VD	1916 – 1919
Sir Gilbert Dyett CMG	1919 – 1946
Sir Eric Millhouse KC	1946 – 1950
Sir George Holland KBE MM	1950 – 1960
Sir Arthur Lee KBE MC	1960 - 1974
Sir William Hall KBE DSO MC	1974 - 1978
Sir William Keys AC OBE MC	1978 - 1988
Brigadier Alf Garland AM (RL)	1988 - 1993
Major General William Brian Digger James AC MBE MC (Retd)	1993 - 1997
Major General Peter R Phillips AO MC (Retd)	1997 – 2003
Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd)	2003 - 2009
Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd)	2009 – 2016
Mr Rod White AM RFD	[Jul] 2016 – [Mar] 2017
Mr Robert Dick	[Mar] 2017 - [Jul] 2018
Major General Aziz Gregory Melick AO RFD SC (Retd)	2019 - current

RSL NATIONAL SECRETARIES/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

E C Evans	National Secretary	1916 – 1917
W Burns	National Secretary	1917 – 1918
W Henderson	National Secretary	1918 – 1919
A P K Morris	National Secretary	1919 - 1920
W J Henderson	National Secretary	1920 - 1921
J H Donnelly	National Secretary	1921
F E Forrest MC	National Secretary	1921 - 1924
E J Dibdin DSO VD	National Secretary	1924 - 1929
J Webster CMG	National Secretary	1929 - 1935
E V Raymont	National Secretary	1935 - 1945
James Clarence Neagle CBE	National Secretary	1945 - 1956
K V Newman	National Secretary	1956 - 1961
A J William Keys OBE MC	National Secretary	1961 - 1978
K G Shultz	National Secretary	1978 - 1981
Peter R Young	National Secretary	1981 - 1983
K D A Medbury OBE	National Secretary	1983
Ian J Gollings AM	National Secretary	1983 - 1991
June M Healy OAM	National Secretary	1991
Robert G Ray MBE	National Secretary	1991 - 1992
June M Healy OAM	National Secretary	1992 - 1994
Derek J Robson AM	National Secretary	1995 – [Feb] 2013
John King	National Secretary	2013 – 2014
Samantha Jackman	Chief Executive Officer	Apr 2015 - 2016
Georgina (Georgie) Macris	Chief Executive Officer	2017 - 2018
Kim Henshaw	General Manager	May 2019 - [Sept] 2020
Brigadier Phil Winter AM CSC ADC	Chief Executive Officer	2021 - current

COMMITTEES

National Veterans' Affairs Committee

The National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC) is charged with advising the National Board on all matters pertaining to assistance and care of serving and former members of the ADF and their families. Membership of the Committee is drawn from all States and Territories as nominated by the respective State President/Board.

NVAC meetings are held every two months and all members are encouraged to bring to the attention of their relevant State Veterans' Affairs Committee any issue in the Veterans' Affairs portfolio that is of concern.

During the year, major topics of concern dealt with by NVAC included:

- Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and issues arising from ATDP impacting on RSL Advocates and trainee Advocates
- Aging Advocate workforce
- Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide
- Accreditation and authorisation of Pension and Well-being Advocates for VITA purposes
- Medical fees and the disparity between DVA re-imburement and other Federal Government agency reimbursement rates
- Burn pits and their relationship to Statements of Principles
- Pension application submitted through MyService without the assistance of an Advocate and subsequent refusal (for example due to failure to submit documents, etc) and the need to subsequently either withdraw the application or go to the Veterans' Review Board on appeal.

NVAC Committee Members

Chairman Robert Webster OAM

Members	Jim Gilchrist	ACT [until August]
	David McCann	NSW
	Margaret Jenyns	QLD
	Bill Hignett OAM	SA
	Garry Beven	TAS
	Adam 'Buzz' Lawson	VIC
	Jeff Jackson OAM	VIC
	Duncan Anderson	WA
	Phil Winter	CEO RSL
	Isaac Ohlin	RSL NSW Policy & Advocacy Officer [from July]
Michael Annett CSC	RSL Policy Officer	

Secretariat Karen Hardiman

NVAC reported to the National Board after each meeting relating to its activities and actions.



Robert Webster
Chairman

RSL National Trusts & Funds

The National Board continued to administer the RSL National Trusts and Funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, RSL Australia Ltd.

Work in 2023 will focus on modernising the Trusts and Funds structure, developing an investment strategy to support growth of the Trusts and Funds which is compliant with the requirements of the Trust deeds, and creating a nationally coordinated fundraising plan.

RSL Scholarships & Grants

RSL Australia has for many years provided a range of scholarships for Australian children and grandchildren of veterans in necessitous and deserving circumstances. We have also provided scholarships and grants in other countries to commemorate the service of Australian veterans in various theatres of conflict.



Jubilee Commemorative Fund of the RSL

This fund was established in 1966 in recognition of the Silver Jubilee of the RSL. The fund was set up to continue the welfare work of the League as carried out since its establishment in 1916, but also enable its expansion into the international arena.

The Jubilee Fund has a focus on the education of the youth of Australia and internationally. The activities and scholarships supported by the Fund enhance social development, mutual understanding and friendship between Australia and other countries in the region.

KAPYONG [GAPYEONG] SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fund continued to support these scholarships which assist disadvantaged school students in South Korea. The grant of \$US2,760 is divided and distributed to several children in the Gapyeong Middle and High Schools.

The scholarships are well received and gratefully accepted in recognition of the part Australian service personnel played in the Korean War.

This year, the scholarships were again presented by the Australian Ambassador.

MEDICAL STUDENT EXCHANGES

Usually, grants of \$10,000 to the University of Sydney Northern Medical School to support the exchange of two medical students from/to Fiji and PNG, and of \$5,000 provided to Hoc Mai Foundation for a one exchange to Vietnam are made from the Jubilee Commemorative Fund.

Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions these grants were not made this year.

RSL SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships provide \$4,000 for each recipient for each of three years of study. Two new scholarships are provided each year and with the provision for the continuing scholarships for previous awardees, the total annual grant for RSL Scholarships is \$24,000. These scholarships are administered by the Australian Veterans Children's Trust (AVCAT).

The 2022 scholarships were awarded to Noeleen Ginnane (pictured) and Mia Taylor.



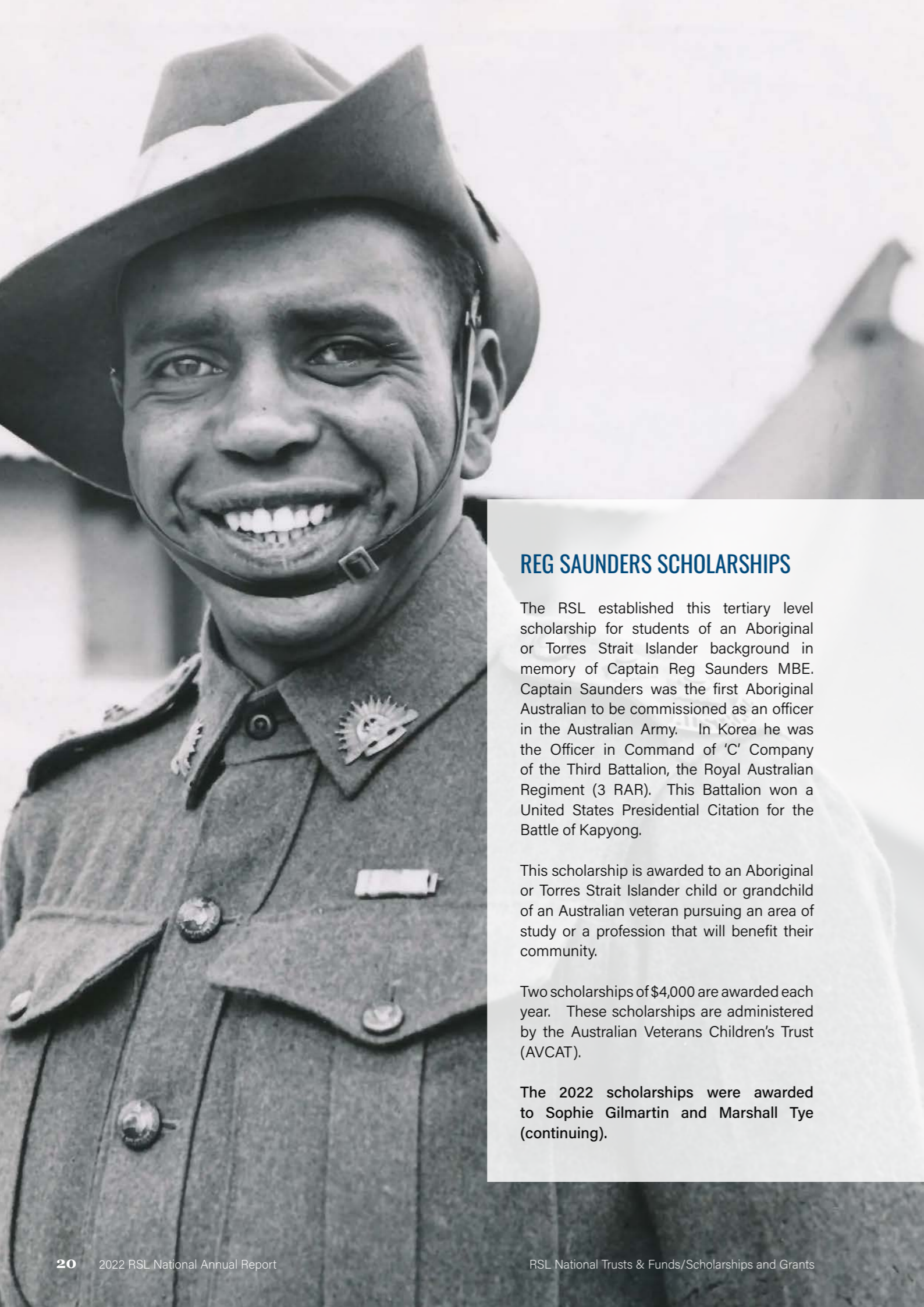
RSL NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The RSL New Guinea Campaign Tertiary Scholarship provides an opportunity for a deserving student, in necessitous circumstances, who not only displays academic capabilities but also leadership potential, to undertake some form of tertiary studies, either through a University or through trade training such that they may eventually be a positive influence within the wider PNG community.

One scholarship of \$6,500 is provided per year and, subject to satisfactory yearly academic results, the recipient may apply again the following year to be the recipient of the scholarship [to a maximum of 3 years].

This Scholarship is administered through the Port Moresby RSL Sub-Branch.

The 2022 scholarship was again awarded to Jaylean Kabor to support her continuing studies.



REG SAUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The RSL established this tertiary level scholarship for students of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background in memory of Captain Reg Saunders MBE. Captain Saunders was the first Aboriginal Australian to be commissioned as an officer in the Australian Army. In Korea he was the Officer in Command of 'C' Company of the Third Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR). This Battalion won a United States Presidential Citation for the Battle of Kapyong.

This scholarship is awarded to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child or grandchild of an Australian veteran pursuing an area of study or a profession that will benefit their community.

Two scholarships of \$4,000 are awarded each year. These scholarships are administered by the Australian Veterans Children's Trust (AVCAT).

The 2022 scholarships were awarded to Sophie Gilmartin and Marshall Tye (continuing).

Mountbatten Memorial Fund

This fund makes an annual grant to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-service League (RCEL) to support disadvantaged ex-servicemen, who had been part of the British Forces, and their dependants within the poorer nations of the Commonwealth. The Centenary Conference for the RCEL was held in 2022 which was attended by the National President Greg Melick. The RCEL grant was suspended in 2022, pending the outcomes of the 2022 Conference and direction provided by the RCEL regarding what ongoing support is required.

RSL War Veterans Homes and Welfare Trust

There were no grants provided from this Trust during 2022.

The RSL Foundation

The purpose of this Trust is, subject to its objects of the Trust, to conduct welfare and other activities in the public interest, for the benefit of returned and services personnel and the public generally.

RSL & 6TH DIVISION SCHOLARSHIPS

The RSL & 6th Division scholarships carry considerable prestige and acknowledgement in representing close ties between the Hellenic and Australian people. It especially recognises the gratitude of 6th Division soldiers for the succour and sacrifices made by Cretans on their behalf during World War II. Each year, for many years now, the Australian Ambassador to Greece, has travelled to Crete to personally present the scholarships.

This year's recipients are:

**Preveli Monastery Award
6th Division RSL**

**Mr Manolis Giannoulis
Mr Dimitrios Kampanakis**

GRANT TO THE BISHOP OF SPILI'S FUND

The Foundation also provides a yearly grant of \$1,000 to the Bishop of Spili's Fund in Crete.

The Australian Ambassador to Greece, His Excellency Mr Arthur Spyrou, presented the donation to the Bishop on behalf of the League at the ceremony at which the Scholarships were presented.



National Commemorations Team

The National Commemorations Team (NCT) was restructured during 2022 to implement a national multi-state strategy for key commemorative events and is now being led by the National CEO. An initial piece of work for this group will be centred around revising and updating the RSL Ceremonial Protocol Handbook.

RSL Australia was fortunate to bring on David Bridgfoot as Commemorative Lead in the National Office and he provides a wealth of commemorative experience from the RAAF to both the National Office team and the NCT.

2022 and the easing of COVID restrictions saw a move back to more traditional commemorations across the nation, but there were still opportunities to include new initiatives for commemorative activities developed over the last few years. The NCT will continue to work collectively and collaboratively to ensure that a coordinated and cogent approach is maintained for future commemorations.

This year the scope of the NCT activities included:

- Recognition of many 80th Anniversary commemorations including the Kokoda Campaign, Battle of the Coral Sea, the Fall of Singapore and the Bombing of Darwin.
- Development of a national strategy for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorations and campaigns
- Protocol queries with the intent to deliver an updated ceremonial protocol manual



HMAS CANBERRA which participated in the Battle of the Coral Sea



REMEMBER
to remember
to thank
to pause
to reflect
to donate

11 November at 11am
visit remembertoremember.com.au



Remembrance Day wreath laying at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. RSL National President Greg Melick at right.

RSL AWARDS & PRIZES



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NSW

BALFOUR, J G
SPENCER, E R

QLD

BEAUCHAMP OAM, P
EDWARDS, J

LOUGHTON AM DSM C.Dec, G
PLUMB, K

TAS

DUNIAM, T
RAMSAY, R

VIC

PARK, N

SUTTON, R

TUCKER, G N

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

NSW

BOUGHTON CSC OAM, B
DURRANT, R
EVENDEN, P A
FIDDEN, P G
GRACE, R
HOBBS, T
KING, G W J
LUPTON, R
MALAQUIN, J B

MCLAREN, R
MCLENNAN, B A
PERRING, J
PERRY, R
SCHUBERG, G
SHAW, R C
SLENDER, J G
STRONG, R H
THOMAS, R

THOMAS, S
WALTERS, B J
WARREN, P
WILLIAMS, R D A
WILSON, N
WILSON, N K
WILSON, R
WRIGHT, A G
ZAAT, P

QLD

BOND, R
BOXSELL, H
CARTER, W
CHURCHWARD, G
CLEMSON, G
CRAWFORD, M
EGAN, J
ENEVER, G

FRASER, F B
FUELLING, T
GARLIN, A
KOMAROWSKI, V
MARTIN, J
MILLER OAM, B
MORRISON, L
OTTONE, B

POLLARD, D
POWELL, M
POWELL, P
SALISBURY, D
STANDFAST, R
STONE, V
TAYLOR, W
WINTERBOTHAM, D

AITCHISON, D [awarded in 2021]

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (CONT'D)

SA

BAGG, J
KLOSE, T
LEMAR, P

MURPHY, D J
OLDENHOVE, D
PERRY, J E

PINK, D K
THOMAS, E J
WARREN, C

TAS

GRAMBERG, H
SIMPSON, R
THORP, C

VIC

ANNETT CSC, M
BARTOSH, E
BATES, I
BESLEE, J
BLACKWELL, P
BRANIFF, J
DUCKET, R
DUNCAN, G
EMBELTON, R
FORSTER, J

FRANKLIN, P
GOLDSBURY, B
JANKOVIC, D
KANELLOS OAM, T
LANGFORD, P
LAWREY OAM, I
MELDRUM, R
NEWELL, C
PARKER, K
PAUL, P

SELLECK, N
SMITH OAM, P
STANYER, J
TANZER, M
TAYLOR-PARKINS, B
WATSON, G
WAWRZIK, M
WORLLEY, R

WA

BRUCE, B
COLLIDGE, W
CREAM, R L
GOUGH, G R

HARNESS, M
HARNESS, M R
JEWELL, R E
LEWIS, J

MORGAN, R T [posthumous]
TOON, S
VOMIERO, K

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

SA

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

WA

His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY/AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

NSW

De LOAS, B
HARDY, S

HINDMARSH, V
MCGLYNN, M

MOLLOY, B

QLD

COMAN, F
FAY, E

WARHURST, D
WEARE, G

WILSON, B

VIC

COLE, D
KELBERG, J

LEGGIERI, J
MOTTON, M

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT & GOLD BADGE

QLD

JOHNSON, V

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

NSW

DUNCAN, L
NICHOLS, N

QLD

ADAMS, A
AIRD, L
ALEXANDER, C
ALEXANDER, W
ALLEN, M
ARMITAGE, R
BALDWIN, C
BARRY, J
BARTY, W
BATTERSBY, G
BAWDEN, T
BEASLEY, D
BELL, J
BERGER, H
BLEAKLEY, G
BLYTHE, J
BOND, L
BONNEY, G
BOSWELL, B
BRABY, A
BRENNAN, R
BRETT, S
BRICE, E
BURNETT, G
BURNS, K
BUTLER, W
CALLAGHAN, R
CATERER, L
CATT, A
CHADWICK, R
CHANDLER, R
CLEAL, L
CONNOP, T
CONNORS, J
CONYERS, G
CORR, B
CRAVEN, B
CRAWFORD, M
CRONIN, D
CUSKELLY, N
DALLAS, W
DARLINGTON, J
DAVIES, P
DAVIS, T
DENNIS, A
DINTE, G

DORING, D
DRINKWATER, L
DUNN, G
EGAN, K
ERHARDT, D
EVANS, J
FAY, JAMES
FINLAY, C
FINNEY, R
FITZPATRICK OAM JP, R
FLANAGAN, J
FORSTER, G
FOSSEY, D
FOSTER, W
FOTEK, T
FULTON, G
FURLONG, C
GAAL, H
GAMER, H
GENTLE, D
GILPATRICK, F
GRAINGER, B
GREAVES, C
GRIMMER, A
HAINS, M
HALPIN, W
HANKINSON, I
HARDGRAVE, E
HARPER, N
HART, D
HARTMAN OAM, R
HARVEY, K
HEPPLE, H
HOARE, J
HOLMES, J
HOMER, E
HOOLE, R
HUTCHINS, D
HUTCHINSON, I
INGLIS, F
JEFFREYS OAM, R
JESSOP, A
JONES, L
JONES, O
JONES, R
JORDAN, A

KAHLER, M
KELLEHER, A
KELLEHER, J
KILPATRICK, W
KING, K
KIRK, E
KIRKHAM, F
KLASS, K
KROSCH, B
KRUGER, R
LARSEN, R
LARSEN, R
LEGGATT, J
LEWIS, A
LOSEW, A
LUXTON, M
MACCOLL, D
MASON, G
MCARTHUR, L
MCDERMOTT, J
MCGRATH, J
MCKENZIE, A
MCKEOWN, R
MELROSE, D
MITCHELSON, R
MITCHENER, F
MONK, B
MOULDER, V
MURPHY, A
NEILSEN, C
NICHOLAS, J
NIXON-SMITH, J
OGRODNICZEK, W
ORRELL, I
O'TOOLE OAM, G
OTTO, T
OVEREND, M
OWEN, E
PANTON, J
PARKER, G
PLATT, R
PRITCHARD, L
PUCCINI, E
PYLE, C
QUARRELL, N
RAYMOND, C

REES, P
REGNART, A
RIDDLE, E
RIDEOUT, R
RIXON, G
ROBERTS, A
ROBINSON, S
ROSBROOK, H
SAAL, B
SANDERSON, T
SELLARS, A
SHAILER, D
SHELDON, J
SKERRIT, C
LOSEW, A
SMILLIE, L
SMITH OAM, D
SPELTA, B
SPRING, N
STEELE, N
STEVENSON MBE, B
STIRLING, I
STOKES OAM, A
SUTCLIFFE, G
SWEENEY, G
TAYLOR, A
TEMPLER, D
THOMPSON, A
TRAPP, N
TROTT, D
TUCKER, A
VINEY, T
WARD, S
WATSON, D
WERTH, R
WHITE, E
WHITE, W
WHITEHEAD, P
WILLIAMS, N
WILSON OAM JP, J
WISCHUSEN, I
WOOD, J
YOUNG, I

50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE (CONT'D)

SA

MCNAMARA, R G
TURNER, W A

VIC

ARMSTRONG, J
BATE, K
BERTUCH, W
BILES, J
BOTTRELL, F
BURGESS, G

CAINES, I
DARLING, A
ELLIOT, B
FARROW, M
GORDON, R
GRANT, W

JEFFREY, B
LUCAS, R
MAHER, L
TUCKER, G N
WEARNE, W

WA

GIBSON, W
LONG, P J

MAINSTONE, A
WHITE, R S

60 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

VIC

HOE, M

WA

ANDRE, M J

75 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

NSW

HARRY, J

WEST, H

WILLIAMS, W

QLD

ALSBURY, J
ALVERSON, L
BAINBRIDGE, F
BELL, J
BOND, G
BRIDGES OAM, K
BRYANT, M

BYLUND, N
CALLAGHAN, R
DAVIDSON, S
GELDARD, E
HARPER, N
HARTLEY, E
HENNING, F

LEWIS, J
MCDERMOTT, J
MCGRANE, M
MCGRANE, M
SHEPHARD, H

NSW

HAYES, F

SUTHERLAND, G

THOMPSON, A

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

NSW

HARRIS, J

WA

RENTON, P
TOWNSLEY, I

SUB-BRANCH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES

75TH ANNIVERSARY

NSW

Huskisson RSL Sub-Branch [June 1947]

SA

Largs Bay RSL Sub-Branch [Apr 1947]

VIC

Fawkner RSL Sub-Branch [July 1947]
 Highett RSL Sub-Branch [May 1947]
 Returned Nurses Club RSL Sub-Branch [Apr 1947]

90TH ANNIVERSARY

SA

Northfield RSL Sub-Branch [1932]

100TH ANNIVERSARY

NSW

Lyndhurst RSL Sub-Branch [1922]

QLD

Wide Bay & Burney RSL District [1919]

SA

Unley RSL Sub-Branch [Sept 1921]
 Mypolonga RSL Sub-Branch [July 1922]

SUB-BRANCH ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES (CONT'D)

100TH ANNIVERSARY (CONT'D)

VIC

Bright Sub-Branch [Mar 1923]
 Chelsea RSL Sub-Branch [Aug 1922]
 Cheltenham-Moorabbin RSL Sub-Branch [June 1922]
 Ensay RSL Sub-Branch [June 1922]
 Merbein RSL Sub-Branch [Sept 1922]
 Morwell RSL Sub-Branch [Jan 2022]
 Sunbury Sub-Branch [Dec 1923]

WA

Bencubbin RSL Sub-Branch [originally Mt Marshall Sub-Br formed in 1921]
 Boulder RSL Sub-Branch [1919]
 Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch [originally Claremont Cottesloe Sub-Br formed in 1917]
 Darkan RSL Sub-Branch [1919]
 Dumbleyung RSL Sub-Branch [July 1919]
 Dwellingup RSL Sub-Branch [Aug 1920]
 Kelmscott Roleystone RSL Sub-Branch [1919]
 Pingelly RSL Sub-Branch [1919]
 Port Hedland RSL Sub-Branch [1919]
 Wyalkatchem RSL Sub-Branch [1922]

The RSL continues to support the pursuit of excellence and, accordingly, makes available a number of awards for Officer trainees.

The League's presentations to outstanding cadets at the Defence Force Academy, the Royal Military College of Australia, and HMAS WATSON (which is presented biennially) continue to be highly regarded.

These offer an opportunity to make known the League's continuing interest in and involvement with our serving men and women.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY

The RSL Sword for Service is presented for outstanding achievement in Leadership and Officer Development by a 3rd Class Officer Cadet/Midshipman of the Australian Defence Force Academy.

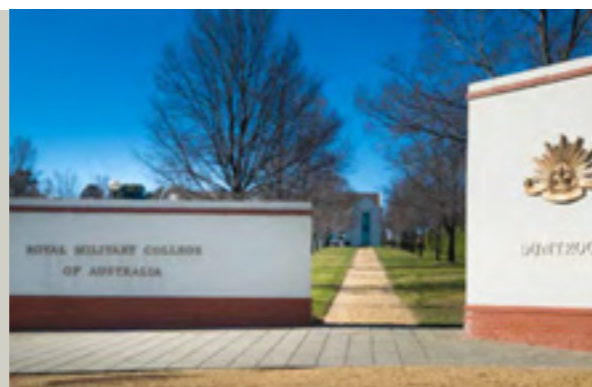
RSL Sword for Service
Midshipman Nicholas Newton RAN



ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF AUSTRALIA

The National RSL Prize is presented to the 2nd Class Cadet of the Royal Military College of Australia who has attained the best results in all assessed subjects.

June Graduation Staff Cadet Adelaide McLean
December Graduation Staff Cadet Sean Lim



HMAS WATSON

The RSL Sword is presented biennially for outstanding achievement as Dux of the Maritime Warfare Officer Application Course.

RSL Sword
Sub-Lieutenant Hudson Wakefield RAN



RSL ANZAC Awards

ANZAC PEACE PRIZE

The ANZAC Peace Prize is awarded by the RSL to recognise any outstanding effort by an Australian citizen who has promoted the concept of international understanding and who, in so doing, has made a contribution to world peace.

The ANZAC Peace Prize was not awarded in 2022.

ANZAC OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

The 2022 ANZAC of the Year awards were made to:

Mr Harold (Harry) Allie BEM of NSW - in recognition of many years of dedicated leadership and commitment to the coordination of indigenous involvement in commemorative services throughout the veteran and local communities in NSW.

Mr Raymond Bell OAM of NSW - in recognition of over 75 years ongoing commitment to the Australian Air League, over 50 years voluntary service as a band marshal at the Sydney ANZAC Day March, and his long service to the Air Force Association (NSW Division).

Dr Madeline Romaniuk of QLD - in recognition of her significant contribution in the veteran mental health area in research and development on post traumatic stress and other health conditions affecting veterans and their families.



RSL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



RSL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

In 2020, RSLA received an invitation from DVA to deliver and coordinate Enhanced Employment Services to Veterans' (EESV) as a national employment program for veterans under Commonwealth Government grant funding. Over the past three years, the RSL Veterans' Employment Program (RVEP) has shown its commitment to provide employment services to the veteran community with increasing numbers of veteran community participation.

During this past 12 months, over 200 veterans and their family members have been supported into civilian employment, with over 250 employers posting vacancies Australia wide.

A key to the overall success of the program has been RSLA identifying and engaging with a wide range of employers – from multi-nationals through to small and medium enterprises – which recognise the inherent value in employing members of the veteran community. RSLA have also built and are continuing to build relationships with key Defence industry stakeholders to keep niche skill sets in Defence industry to benefit Australia and retain these capabilities.

Additionally, ancillary support services including resume preparation, refresher and upskilling training, as well as facilitating Recognition of Prior Learning competencies and contact between veterans and employers have all contributed to veterans and dependants gaining employment.

The RVEP took part in Transition Seminars held by the ADF Joint Transition Authority (JTA) at various locations around Australia – these events have proven to be a great way to let the ADF and veteran communities know about the services offered by the RSL in all states. Virtual seminars are also held throughout the year, giving access to RSL offerings for those who are unable to attend an in-person session.

RSL WA held a highly successful Mini Jobs Summit in December 2022, which was attended by the Hon Paul Papalia (State Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues). Hosted by the Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch, it was a chance for employers seeking the niche skillsets of veterans to interact in person with participants of the RVEP in a relaxed and informal setting. Several RVEP participants gained employment after meeting with the employers, and plans are being made to host another Mini Jobs Summit in June 2023.

RSLA was also invited to attend an online virtual forum of Global Military Partners Employment, where representatives from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France and Australia discussed their programs to assist military partners into employment, and the common challenges faced around the world.

The Forces Command Welfare Conference is planned to be held at Randwick Barracks in 2023 which the RSL team members plan to attend. It is hoped that this will provide an exceptional opportunity to meet with serving personnel and to advise them on RSLA services and support available to them in combination with Defence transition services

Ellie Wilman
National Program Manager



 CAREER TRANSITION

 CAREER NAVIGATION

 CAREER COACHING

 CV & COVER LETTERS

 INTERVIEW SKILLS

 PATHWAY PROGRAMS TO UPSKILL

 EMPLOYER CONNECTIONS

National ESO Forum

The RSL established the National Forum for ESOs in 2022 with representatives of more than 50 different ESOs attending the first meeting held in Canberra on 15 November 2022.

The purpose of the Forums is to provide a mechanism to meet in the spirit of collaboration and coordination to discuss the findings and emerging recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The Forums foster conversations about systemic issues that concern the veteran and Defence communities, and our shared future in addressing these challenges.

At the Canberra meeting, the group in attendance discussed the need for greater alignment across the sector to secure better outcomes for veterans, particularly in regard to achieving greater prioritisation of the veteran community's needs from all levels of government.

The Forum also collectively agreed that the ESO sector should pursue the establishment of a peak body organisation that could provide a single, clear voice on behalf of the industry. This was considered an essential requirement to shaping a positive future for the sector

The Canberra meeting was facilitated by former MP, Gai Brodtmann, and attendees were joined by Commissioners Nick Kaldas APM, Dr Peggy Brown AO, and Hon James Douglas KC.

In his speech to the forum, Commissioner Kaldas highlighted the critical role that ESOs will play as part of the Royal Commission's proceedings and its ability to shape a better future for all veterans and their families. He called upon ESOs to support the Commission in amplifying the need for greater attention, action, and commitment to the veteran community.



RSL Mental Health Initiative

Established in September 2021 through funding from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and in partnership with Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling, the RSL Mental Health Initiative powered through some unexpected problems to develop and deliver mental health training to veteran community volunteers across Australia. The purpose of the training was to enhance the veteran community's capability to recognise veterans "at risk" and increase their confidence in providing the initial intervention and referral support required.

To ensure a strong uptake of workshops within the RSL community, a marketing and communications campaign was developed to promote the program. This program included a webpage developed and maintained on the RSL Australia website, social media posts and media articles. In addition, an RSL team was formed with representatives from all RSL State Branches to support the RSLA National Coordinator Mental Health Training Program. The partnership with DVA and RSLA has been key to facilitating the extra delivery of mental health literacy workshops through RSL Sub-Branched across the country.

Following the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions in 2021, RSLA was able to transform the program model in 2022 to facilitate online workshops nationally. Workshops included Suicide Alertness for Everyone (safeTALK), Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

In 2022 the Initiative successfully delivered 37 workshops across all States and upskilled 439 participants.

The RSLA Mental Health Initiative concluded on 30 September 2022. The RSL will continue to encourage attendance at mental health literacy workshops provided by Open Arms

Cyndy Jakobi
National Mental Health Training Coordinator



In our determination to encourage veterans to join together and engage with their local communities to get active, find a new passion or hobby and spend time in nature, the League's RSL Active Program continued in 2022. The purpose of the program is to uncover nationwide opportunities for collaboration with organisations which support veterans to offer enhanced RSL sports and recreational activities across the country.

We are happy to have been able to engage with some key national level events during the year and continue to drive embedded community support at the Sub-Branch level. These existing programs include recreation activities such as painting, guitar tuition and outdoor activities including sailing, running, trekking, cycling and surfing.

RSL Active has created virtual clubs for cyclists and runners/walkers using the popular Strava App. The clubs are open to veterans and their families from all across Australia, giving them the opportunity to join and connect with a like-minded community, share common goals and participate in friendly challenges all while keeping fit.

RSL Active also was proud to support the 'Long Ride Australia 2022' and the RSL Remembrance Ride. For the Long Ride, hundreds of motorbike enthusiasts from all States and Territories hit the road on a multi day interstate ride in support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. RSL Australia was a proud sponsor and was eager to support the event that typically brings together a large veteran contingency (approx. 50% of registrations). The RSL Remembrance Ride was a 920km off road bike ride across the Mawson Trail.

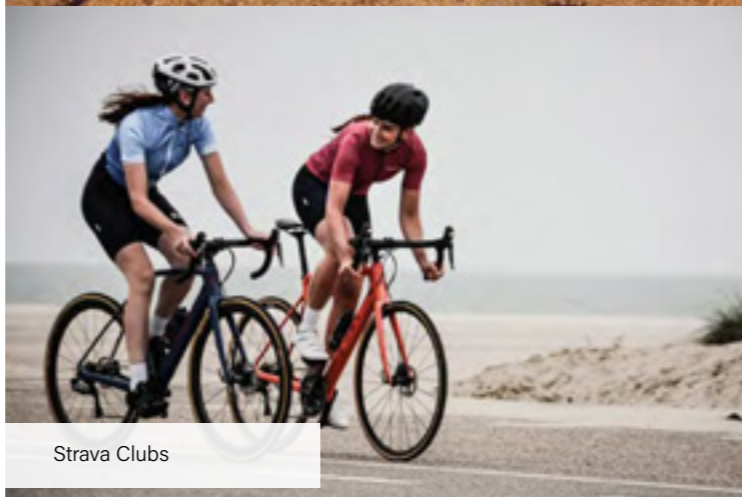
An enthusiastic and colourful crowd gathered for the finals at the Kirra Longboard Klassic, sponsored by the RSL Australia RSL Active program. This family-friendly longboard event is designed to bring like-minded people together for a fun day of surfing and included a most hotly contested "Fancy Dress". This year the event had 11 divisions including the "Australian Defence Force Division" which was open to all men and women who have served their country. This year there were 24 sponsored entries available in this division.



Long Ride Australia



RSL Remembrance Ride



Strava Clubs



Kirra Longboard Klassic

RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund

The Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) provides packages to ADF and Australia Federal Police (AFP) personnel serving overseas on various military operations, peacekeeping and peacemaking deployments as a reminder that Australians appreciate the contributions our service people are making for the nation. The packages are provided twice yearly so that those deployed receive at least one pack whilst they are serving overseas in whatever capacity.

The beginning of RSL AFOF can be traced to the decision to provide Christmas parcels to members of the Australian Army serving in Vietnam. Following the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, RSL AFOF has continued to support Australian Forces on missions abroad. RSL AFOF was formally established on 26 January 1966 at the Sydney Town Hall, amalgamating the earlier fund established by RSL NSW and the Lord Mayor's Comfort Fund.

The work of RSL AFOF has been made possible due to financial donations received from Australians and organisations who share our desire to continue this support.

The packages contain various items to remind personnel of home, and a letter of appreciation from the League on behalf of all Australians is also included in the packages.

The preparation of the packages would not happen without the support of the 39th Battalion Operational Support Unit who provide the facilities for this to occur twice a year. RSL AFOF also gratefully acknowledges the volunteers who give freely of their time to assist the RSL National AFOF Coordinator, Fiona MacDonald, to pack the packages, including LTCOL Mark (Robbo) Robinson (Retd), members from the St Mary's and the Malabar RSL Sub-Branches, members of the ADF and members of the community.

Approximately 350 packages were filled in both March and October 2022. The packages included the following items: Anzac biscuits, mixed nuts, lollies and muesli bars. These care packages will find their way to locations around the world where our ADF personnel are currently serving on deployment.

RSL AFOF is proud to make this contribution to the welfare of our serving personnel on behalf of a grateful nation. The RSL wishes all those serving overseas good fortune and a safe return home.



National Financial Report 2022

The following Financial Report addresses the audited statements for the National Office of the League for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The deficit from operations for the year ended 31 December 2022 was \$81,107 compared to a surplus of \$235,230 for the prior year. The 2021 result includes the fair value adjustment (write-up) on non-current assets and investment property of \$211,242 and \$100,000 respectively. Excluding these two significant fair value adjustments, the 2021 operating result was an operating deficit of \$76,012 compared to the 2022 operating deficit of \$81,107.

The operating revenue for 2022 was \$3,619,551 compared to \$1,979,495 in the prior year. The increase in revenue reflects an increase in the funding provided by the States and Territories to support the operations of the National Office and a ramp up by RSLA in the delivery of the strategic plan initiatives resulting in additional expenditure from the strategic plan funding of \$181,000 and a ramp up in the delivery of grant programs, particularly the Enhanced Employment Support for Veterans of approximately \$875,000. These programs and initiatives are discussed elsewhere in this Annual Report. The increase in operating expenses between the two financial years is due to the grant expenses, additional strategic plan initiatives and further investment in the capacity and capability of the National Office.

The policy of RSLA is to undertake a valuation of its non-current assets and the investment property every three years. A valuation was undertaken in 2021 hence, there are no fair value adjustments recorded in the 2022 financial statements.

As at 31 December 2022 the total assets of RSLA were \$8.3m compared to \$8.7m in 2021. The decrease reflects the use of cash for the delivery of grant programs and strategic plan initiatives as well as the annual depreciation on non-current assets. As at 31 December 2022 RSLA had total liabilities of \$1.4m compared to \$1.7m in the prior year. This reduction in total liabilities reflects the use of unearned income (related to grant programs). The net asset position of RSLA continues to be strong with net assets of \$6.9m compared to \$7m in the prior year.

There were no reportable changes to RSLA's financial policies.

The notes to the audited statements also disclose the balances of the various Trust Funds managed by the National Trustees.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation for the considerable efforts, guidance and support of the RSLA staff and the auditor during the 2022 year.



Maria Storti
Chair
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.

ABN 63 008 488 097

DIRECTORS REPORT

Your directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are (unless otherwise noted below):

Directors (1 January to 31 December 2022)

Name	Position Held	Period of appointment if other than for full year
D Nathan	Chairman/Non-Member Director	
A G Melick	National President	
D Anderson	Member Director	
C Cates	Member Director	
R James	Member Director	To 26 August 2022
J King	Member Director	
R Webster	Member Director	
B Quinn	Member Director	To 22 March 2022
J Whitehead	Member Director	
R Byrne	Member Director	From 22 March 2022
B Slattery	Member Director	From 23 September 2022
M Dermatossian	Non-Member Director	To 12 October 2022
M Storti	Non-Member Director	
D Brown	Alternate Director	
J Black	Alternate Director	To 21 September 2022
N James	Alternate Director	From 11 October 2022
T Whitelaw	Alternate Director	
B Quinn	Alternate Director	From 20 February 2022
D Callaghan	Alternate Director	
M Gallagher	Alternate Director	To 20 February 2022

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Company Secretary

The following person held the position of company secretary at the end of the financial year:

Philip Winter Company Secretary.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were:

- The continued care and welfare of ex-service personnel;
- Representing the views and opinions of its members to governments, to the public generally and to organisations with interests similar to those of the RSL;
- Provision of representation before statutory Boards and Tribunals;
- The liaison with overseas ex-service organisations; and
- Overseeing the conditions of service of serving personnel in the Australian Defence Force.

No significant changes in the nature of the company's activities occurred during the financial year.

Operating Result

The deficit of the company for the year amounted to \$81,107 (2021 surplus: \$235,230).

Review of Operations

A review of operations of the company during the financial year indicated that there have been no significant changes to operations of the company during the financial year.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the company's state of affairs during the financial year.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

Future Developments

The company expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the company's operations.

Dividends Paid or Recommended and Options

In accordance with the company's Constitution, the company is limited by guarantee and accordingly no shares or options have been issued. No dividends are paid by the company.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Indemnifying Officers or Auditor

During the financial year, the company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the directors of the company against a liability incurred as a director to the extent permitted by the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The directors have not included details of the nature of the liabilities covered or the amount of the premium paid in respect of the directors' and officers' liability and legal expenses insurance contracts as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, six meetings of directors were held. Attendance by each director were as follows:

Directors' Meetings		
	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Directors –		
D Nathan	6	5
A G Melick	6	6
D Anderson	6	6
C Cates	6	5
R James	4	4
J King	6	6
R Webster	6	6
B Quinn	1	1
J Whitehead	6	4
R Byrne	5	5
B Slattery	2	2
M Dermatossian	4	4
M Storti	6	5
D Brown *	0	0
J Black *	0	0
N James *	0	1
T Whitelaw *	0	1
B Quinn *	0	0
D Callaghan *	0	0
M Gallagher *	0	0

* - Alternate Director

DIRECTORS REPORT

Meetings of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

During the financial year, seven meetings of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee were held. Attendance by committee members were as follows:

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Meetings		
	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
Maria Storti	7	7
John King	7	6
Madeline Dermatossian	6	4
Ross Byrne	2	2

Environmental Issues

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

Proceedings on Behalf of the Company

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any of those proceedings.

The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been received and can be found on page 7 of the Financial Report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Dated this 30th day of March 2023.

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS' DECLARATION

The responsible persons' declare that in their opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 to 25:
 - (a) comply with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and Accounting Standards as described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.



Dated this 30th day of March 2023.



AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd
ACN: 088 095 354

PO Box 776, Mitchell ACT 2911

Telephone: 02 6170 6870

Email: admin@accountability-act.com.au
www.accountability-act.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under
Professional Standards Legislation

AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60.40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2022 there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditors' independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

AccountAbility

Anthony Wilson
Registered Company Auditor
Canberra, ACT
30 March 2023

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue from members and others	2a	3,619,551	1,979,495
Other income	2b	78,666	58,647
Employee benefits expense	3	(709,647)	(579,460)
Grant expenses		(1,759,619)	(884,762)
Other program expenses		(252,000)	-
Strategic plan initiatives		(260,679)	(79,497)
Depreciation	8	(89,307)	(83,267)
Administration expenses		(128,350)	(88,024)
Occupancy		(43,332)	(23,377)
Meeting and conference		(2,848)	(4,219)
Insurance		(21,222)	(20,136)
Legal		(31,260)	(15,501)
Trademark management		(94,427)	(129,438)
Investment management		(18,613)	(16,707)
Accounting and audit		(8,500)	(13,500)
Provision for doubtful debts		-	54,302
Fund expenses		(59,950)	(52,448)
National President		(85,284)	(30,760)
Non-member director fees and expenses	3	(134,034)	(139,412)
Other expenses		(80,252)	(10,332)
Fair value adjustments – non-current assets		-	211,242
Total expenses		(3,779,324)	(1,905,296)
Surplus/(Deficit) from continuing operations		(81,107)	132,846
<i>Other comprehensive income</i>			
Fair value adjustment – non-current assets	8	-	2,384
Fair value adjustment of investment		-	100,000
Total comprehensive income/(deficit) for the year		(81,107)	235,230

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,415,195	1,612,333
Trade and other receivables	5	58,165	242,914
Inventories		41	42
Other financial assets	6	2,976,585	2,990,841
Other current assets	7	<u>263,608</u>	<u>181,366</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,713,594	5,027,496
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	2,848,849	2,923,563
Investment property at valuation	1(h)	<u>750,000</u>	<u>750,000</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		3,598,849	3,673,563
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>8,312,443</u>	<u>8,701,059</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	178,267	218,083
Unearned income	10	1,159,519	1,458,169
Provisions	11	<u>90,926</u>	<u>59,969</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,428,712	1,736,221
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,428,712</u>	<u>1,736,221</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>6,883,731</u>	<u>6,964,838</u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		6,710,847	6,791,954
Reserves		172,884	172,884
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>6,883,731</u>	<u>6,964,838</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Replacement Reserve \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	6,618,239	40,869	70,500	6,729,608
Surplus from continuing operations	132,846	-	-	132,846
Other comprehensive income	-	-	102,384	102,384
Transfers from reserves	40,869	(40,869)	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	6,791,954	-	172,884	6,964,838
(Deficit) from continuing operations	(81,107)	-	-	(81,107)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Transfers from reserves	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>6,710,847</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,884</u>	<u>6,883,731</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	NOTE	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members, grantors and others *		3,725,120	1,547,199
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,962,485)	(2,138,114)
Interest received		40,564	17,390
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash generated by/(used in) operating activities	12	(196,801)	(573,525)
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from financial assets		14,256	16,218
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(14,593)	(24,637)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash generated by/(used in) investing activities		(337)	(8,419)
<i>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</i>		(197,138)	(581,944)
Cash at beginning of the financial year		1,612,333	2,194,277
Cash at end of the financial year	4	<u>1,415,195</u>	<u>1,612,333</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is for The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited as an individual company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general-purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the company's functional and presentation currency. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

New and amended accounting policies adopted by the Company

The Company has adopted all of the new, revised or amended accounting standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

For the year ended 31 December 2022, the Company has adopted *AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities*.

The adoption of AASB 1060 has not had any material impact on the financial performance or position of the company because the company's previous financial statements complied with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The adoption of AASB 1060 has resulted in some minor disclosure changes in the financial statements.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue

Revenue recognised under AASB 15 is measured at the amount which the company expects to receive in consideration for satisfying performance obligations to a customer or grantor. A performance obligation is the distinct good or service defined within the contract with a customer or grantor. The transaction price is allocated to one or more performance obligations contained within the contract, with revenue being recognised as or when the performance obligation is satisfied.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Timing of Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised either at a point in time or over time, when (or as) the entity satisfies performance obligations by transferring the promised goods or services to its customers.

If the entity satisfies a performance obligation before it receives the consideration, the entity recognises either a contract asset or a receivable in its statement of financial position, depending on whether something other than the passage of time is required before the consideration is due.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(b) Contributions from Members

Operational funding contributions from members are determined on a per capita basis at a level agreed to by the Board. This level will be determined by reference to the operational requirements of the company.

Specific purpose funding will also be set by the Board.

(c) Taxation

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(d) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the reporting date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages, salaries and annual leave which may be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the net present value.

Contributions are made by the company to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(e) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments.

(g) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(h) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair values as indicated, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Property (including commercial and investment property)

Land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in Other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation reserve in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same classes of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus; all other decreases are charged to the Statement of comprehensive income.

As the revalued buildings are depreciated the difference between depreciation recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income, which is based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset, and the depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from the revaluation surplus to retained earnings. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Freehold land and buildings contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost would be valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Plant and equipment that have been contributed at no cost, or for nominal cost are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings is depreciated either on a straight-line or declining-balance method basis over the asset's useful life to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Buildings	2.5% - 5.0%
Fitout	2.5%
Furniture and fittings	11.5% - 20.0%
Plant and equipment	20.0% - 40.0%
Plaques and statuettes	20%

The residual values for assets and their useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

Asset classes carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the Statement of comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(i) Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value or amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The subsequent measurement depends on the classification of the financial instrument as described below.

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Financial assets that meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost:

- the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; 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.

Financial assets that meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI):

- the financial asset is held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling the financial assets; 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.

By default, all other financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Despite the above, the company may make the following irrevocable election/designation at initial recognition of a financial asset:

- the company may irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in fair value of an equity instrument in other comprehensive income if certain criteria are met; and
- the company may irrevocably designate a financial asset that meets the amortised cost or FVTOCI criteria as measured at FVTPL if doing so eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch.

Financial liabilities

All financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method or at FVTPL.

Impairment of financial assets

The company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or at FVTOCI. No impairment loss is recognised for investments in equity instruments. The amount of expected credit losses is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition of the respective financial asset. The company recognises lifetime expected credit losses for trade receivables. The expected credit losses on these financial assets are estimated based on the company's historical credit loss experience adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors, general economic conditions and an assessment of both the current as well as the future direction of conditions at the reporting date, including time value of money where appropriate.

(i) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of comprehensive income.

Where future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an asset class, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the class of asset belongs.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(j) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(k) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated in to the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

Key estimates 2022 – Impairment of property, plant and equipment.

The company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company that may lead to impairment of assets, covering both receivables and property, plant and equipment.

Property, plant and equipment, including the investment property, have been reviewed at the reporting date to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of these assets are impaired. Where indications of impairment exist, the assets recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount. Refer also *Note 8 Property, Plant and Equipment*.

Fair value less costs to sell or current replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

(l) Disclosure of fund activities

These financial statements include amounts relating to the assets, liabilities, equity, revenues and expenses for the activities of the following funds:

- Australian Forces Overseas Fund
- Jubilee Commemorative Fund
- Mountbatten Fund.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 2. REVENUE		
a. Revenue from members and others		
<i>Specific purpose funding</i>		
Operational funding	1,150,000	860,000
Strategic plan funding from States	260,679	79,497
Other funding received	1,700	9,091
	<u>1,412,379</u>	<u>948,588</u>
<i>Services revenue</i>		
Capitation fees	(7,186)	-
Grant programs		
Open Arms	89,477	48,765
Department of Veterans' Affairs - Enhanced Employment Support for Veterans	1,759,619	887,762
Other programs - Servulink	252,000	-
	<u>2,093,910</u>	<u>936,527</u>
<i>Other revenue</i>		
Royalties	5,502	4,916
Merchandising revenue	45,000	45,000
Other trading revenue	62,760	44,464
	<u>113,262</u>	<u>94,380</u>
 Total revenue from members and others	 <u>3,619,551</u>	 <u>1,979,495</u>
 Represented by:		
Revenue recognised at a point in time	1,257,776	963,470
Revenue recognised over time	2,361,775	1,016,025
	<u>3,619,551</u>	<u>1,979,495</u>
 b. Other income		
Interest	33,146	14,450
Fund interest and other income	7,806	6,110
Rental income	37,714	38,087
Total other income	<u>78,666</u>	<u>58,647</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 3. SPECIFIC COSTS INCLUDED IN EXPENSES		
Employee benefit expenses includes:		
Superannuation	74,403	60,300
 NOTE 4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
CURRENT		
Cash at bank	1,415,195	1,612,333
	<u>1,415,195</u>	<u>1,612,333</u>
 NOTE 5. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade receivables (gross)	3,822	195,466
<i>Less: Provision for doubtful debts</i>	-	-
Trade receivables (net)	3,822	195,466
Other receivables	21,911	45,272
Accrued revenue	32,432	2,176
	<u>58,165</u>	<u>242,914</u>
 NOTE 6. FINANCIAL ASSETS		
CURRENT		
<i>Held to maturity financial assets</i>		
Term deposits	2,976,585	2,990,841
	<u>2,976,585</u>	<u>2,990,841</u>
 NOTE 7. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Prepaid expenses	263,608	181,366
	<u>263,608</u>	<u>181,366</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 8. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Commercial Property ⁽¹⁾	Office Fitout	Furnishings	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Plaques	TOTAL
As at 1 January 2022							
Gross book value	2,253,279	658,048	2,340	29,505	41,832	755	2,985,760
Accumulated depreciation	-	(36,327)	(788)	(10,756)	(14,045)	(281)	(62,197)
TOTAL as at 1 January 2022	2,253,279	621,721	1,552	18,750	27,787	474	2,923,563
Additions	-	-	-	7,940	6,653	-	14,593
Depreciation	(52,299)	(17,734)	(259)	(12,281)	(6,640)	(94)	(89,307)
Valuation adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writeback – fully written down assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writeback – accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL as at 31 December 2022	2,200,980	603,987	1,293	14,409	27,800	380	2,848,849
Total as at 31 December 2022 represented by:							
Gross book value	2,253,279	658,048	2,340	37,446	48,485	755	3,000,353
Accumulated depreciation	(52,299)	(54,061)	(1,047)	(23,036)	(20,685)	(375)	(151,504)
TOTAL as at 31 December 2022	2,200,980	603,987	1,293	14,409	27,800	380	2,848,849

(1) – Valuation undertaken as at 31 December 2021 by MMJ Canberra (Haydn Rudat AAPI and Phil Green AAPI, Certified Practising Valuers)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Trade creditors and accruals	169,502	218,222
Borrowings	2,356	(139)
Other payables	6,409	-
	<u>178,267</u>	<u>218,083</u>
NOTE 10. UNEARNED INCOME		
CURRENT		
Grant funding	724,788	834,407
Strategic plan initiative	432,624	620,503
Other	2,107	3,259
	<u>1,159,519</u>	<u>1,458,169</u>

NOTE 11. PROVISIONS

Analysis of total provision

	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave
Provisions		
Opening balance as at 1/1/2022	40,548	19,421
Net movement in balance	19,303	11,654
Balance as at 31/12/2022	<u>59,851</u>	<u>31,075</u>
Current	59,851	31,075
	<u>59,851</u>	<u>31,075</u>

NOTE 12. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

Cash as per:		
Statement of financial position	4	1,415,195
Statement of cash flows		1,612,333
		<u>1,415,195</u>
		<u>1,612,333</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 12. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION (continued)		
<i>Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the year to net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</i>		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(81,107)</u>	<u>132,846</u>
<i>Adjustments for non-cash items</i>		
Depreciation	89,307	83,267
Fair value adjustments	-	(211,242)
<i>Movements in assets and liabilities</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	184,750	(212,698)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments/other assets	(82,242)	(171,788)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and borrowings	(39,816)	60,427
Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	(298,649)	(270,432)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	30,957	16,095
	<u>(196,801)</u>	<u>(573,525)</u>

NOTE 13. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE DATE

There have been no events subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment in the financial statements.

NOTE 14. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

There are no contingent liabilities or assets as at 31 December 2022 which require disclosure in the financial statements.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with related parties are on terms no more or no less favourable than any normal commercial arrangement. These transactions include the delivery of service funded activities.

During the financial year the three independent directors received remuneration at rates set by the Board. The total remuneration paid to independent directors for 2022 was \$131,182 (2021: \$137,187).

The other directors did not receive any remuneration.

Reimbursement of travel expenses is made for the National President and the independent directors.

NOTE 16. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

	Short Term Benefits \$	Post Employment Benefits \$	Total \$
2022 Total compensation	220,298	22,581	242,879
2021 Total compensation	192,231	18,787	211,018

NOTE 17. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Board control the capital of the company to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund operations. The Board is responsible for the overall risk management strategy.

The company's capital consists of financial liabilities, supported by financial assets.

The Board effectively manage the company's capital by assessing the company's financial risks and responding to changes in these risks and in the market.

The company does not have a formal policy on capital management.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

NOTE 18. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The company is incorporated under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 31 December 2022 the number of members was 7 (2021: 7).

NOTE 19. COMMITMENTS

At the reporting date the company had entered into an agreement with Australian War Memorial for a sponsorship arrangement relating to the Memorial's Last Post Ceremony webcast. The agreement covers the period 2022 to 2027 with an amount of \$400,000 remaining to be paid.

The company has no other significant commitments.

NOTE 20. COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business for the company is:

Unit 137
81 Constitution Avenue
Campbell ACT 2612.



AccountAbility (ACT) Pty Ltd
ACN: 088 095 354

PO Box 776, Mitchell ACT 2911

Telephone: 02 6170 6870

Email: admin@accountability-act.com.au
www.accountability-act.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under
Professional Standards Legislation

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETURNED &
SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of 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 Declaration by Responsible Person.

In my opinion the financial report of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited 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 registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code)* that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the *Code*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for 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, the directors are responsible for assessing The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited'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 intends to liquidate The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 my 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, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

I 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 my 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 Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited 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 Returned & Services League of Australia Limited's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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.

I communicate with The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including when considered necessary any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

AccountAbility



Anthony Wilson
Registered Company Auditor
Canberra, ACT
30 March 2023

80th Anniversaries Remembered



THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA

On the first Wednesday of September each year, Australia remembers all those who served in the defence of our nation during the Second World War. In 2022 we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of some of the pivotal battles surrounding what Prime Minister John Curtin declared the 'Battle for Australia'; honouring and thanking the thousands of Australians and our allies who engaged in land, air and sea battles during 1942.

The Fall of Singapore

Battle-weary from heavy fighting on the Malay Peninsular, and after surviving a pre-invasion heavy bombardment, the British Empire forces were unable to hold their various defensive positions and by 15 February 1942 Singapore fell to the invading Japanese force.

The Battle of the Coral Sea

In their attempt to cut Australia's supply line with the US, the Japanese planned to establish bases in the south-west Pacific Islands. Japanese carrier forces were engaged by US and Allied carrier forces in a series of aerial and sea battles in the Coral Sea and Midway, including a Japanese invasion fleet heading for Port Moresby. These major defeats suffered by the Japanese naval forces forced them to abandon their plans to capture Fiji, Samoa and the New Hebrides.

The Battle for Kokoda

Not deterred by the recent failure of their naval fleet, the Japanese land forces continued their efforts to take Port Moresby, fighting the Australians on the Kokoda Track. Called by some the most significant battle fought by Australians in World War II, the fighting along and around the Kokoda Track continued between July and November 1942.



WAR COMES TO AUSTRALIAN SHORES

The Bombing of Darwin

15 February commemorated the 80th anniversary of when Darwin was first bombed by Japanese warplanes. We remember and recognise the people of Darwin and the allied service personnel who suffered during this time.

Attack on Sydney Harbour

On 31 May/1 June 1942 three midget submarines launched an attack on Sydney Harbour. All three submarines were lost, two of them before they could fire their torpedoes. Prime targets at anchor in the Harbour were cruisers the USS Chicago and HMAS Canberra. The third submarine managed to fire but missed its intended targets and sunk the requisitioned Sydney Harbour ferry Kuttabul which was being used as an RAN Depot Ship. Twenty one Naval ratings were killed in the attack - 19 Australian and 2 British.

The Bombing of Newcastle

A week after the attack on Sydney Harbour, on 8 June 1942, a Japanese submarine fired 34 shells on Newcastle, causing little damage and no casualties. Return fire was made by the Fort Scratchley Battery.





RSL
Australia



The Returned & Services League of Australia Ltd.

ABN 63 008 488 097 | 137/81 Constitution Avenue, CAMPBELL ACT 2612