



Rod White announced as National President

The NSW Branch of the Returned and Services League (RSL) of Australia is pleased to announce that Mr Rod White AM, RFD has today been elected as the League's National President, following the retirement of Rear Admiral Ken Doolan this week.

Mr White has been the NSW State President for the past year, having been Honorary State Treasurer since 2004 and a State Councillor since 2001. He is a Life Member of the RSL, since joining 45 years ago.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr White said: "I'm incredibly proud to be elected into the post of National President. As the largest supporter of serving and ex-serving personnel in Australia, the RSL has played a crucial role in its 100 years of operation and I look forward to steering the League in its continued mission to ensure the best life for our returning servicemen and women.

"I'd also like to acknowledge the fine work achieved by outgoing National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan. On behalf of the RSL, we wish him the very best for his retirement."

Mr White is a Vietnam veteran who retired with the rank of Major. A resident of Turramurra on Sydney's North Shore, Mr White was raised and educated in Chatswood. On leaving school he followed family interests into the building industry completing his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. Concurrently, he enlisted in 1964 in the Army Reserve with the 17th Infantry Battalion, later volunteering for the Regular Army as a National Serviceman and serving for nearly 3 years. He was posted to the 9th Battalion and then with the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam War, as an infantry Corporal and a mortar fire controller.

After Vietnam he returned to the building industry, re-enlisted in the Army Reserve and was subsequently appointed a commissioned officer. His postings included Second in Command - Sydney University Regiment and of the 17th Infantry Battalion. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (Military Division) for his service to the Australian Army Reserve and awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration.

Mr White has served as chairman of RSL LifeCare, as a Trustee of the RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution and as a director of the Anzac House Trust.

Mr White takes up his duties as National President immediately. Mr John Haines, as the senior vice-president, will be the acting State President of the NSW Branch.

About RSL

The purpose of the RSL is to support serving and ex-service personnel and their families, ensuring the best life for them upon returning home. Since 1916, the RSL has evolved to ensure it can continue to deliver services that improve the welfare of past, current and future veterans. The RSL supports personnel and their families at each stage of life to transition from service into the community.

For interviews with RSL National President, Rod White, please contact:

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