

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

DON ROWE

NSW State President Returned and Services League of Australia

Hello, and welcome to our October 2014 monthly newsletter for RSL members, the news media and for the general public. As we approach some very significant anniversaries, I want to keep everyone informed on what's happening on commemorative activities in particular.

I know many sub-Branches will now have plans in place for local services and projects to mark the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing. Don't forget to let us know about these so we can assist and publicize them. Our website receives a great number of hits not only from our members but also the general public. If we have your ANZAC Day Services posted that will allow all to know what is happening in your local area. This information will also help with Project Waratah Pilgrimage where we are encouraging people to attend the Anzac Day Services where their ancestors enlisted during World War I. We are also investigating the likelihood of bumper issues of Reveille next year and sub-Branches will have the opportunity to receive extensive coverage of commemorations.

We were all very sad to hear of the passing of Mike George OAM, former State Vice President and State Councillor Northern Country. Myself and Chris Perrin, along with State Councillors, CEO's and a large number of RSL members and those who served with Mike attended his funeral in Dubbo on **Friday 3rd October**. Mike gave long and valuable service to the League and was a recipient of the RSL Meritorious Service Medal. Lest We Forget

On **Friday 10th October**, Department of Veterans' Affairs, RSL and our own DefenceCare team will be launching Veterans' Health Week 2014.

The week is an opportunity for veterans, war widows, widowers, current and ex-Australian Defence Force members and their families to participate, connect and influence the health and wellbeing of themselves and their friends. DVA will join the RSL and other ex-service organisations and community groups in a programme of fun and interactive events and activities at a local level, an example of this is currently happening at North Bondi sub-Branch where they will launch the "Vets Go Surfing" initiative on **Monday 13th October** as part of Veterans' Health Week. For information about activities in your area go to the DVA website.

As part of Veterans' Health week, I will be in Wagga Wagga on **Sunday 12th October** when the local sub-Branch will sponsor a Younger Veterans Family Fun and Information Day. It's a great opportunity for serving ADF members as well as recently returned veterans to find out more about the services available.

The following day, **Monday 13th October**, we will welcome District Council Presidents to the Hyde Park Forum in Sydney for their regular conference. The next State Council meeting will be held on **Friday 17th October** at RSL LifeCare, Narrabeen.

On the **27th and 28th October** National Executive and the National Conference will be held in Perth. On the **1st November** the National President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO, will lead the RSL contingent in commemorating the centenary of the AIF fleet departure from Albany. This will be the first major WWI anniversary and an international fleet will salute the service of those thousands of soldiers and sailors who departed these shores 100 years ago.

RSL AFOF will shortly be sending parcels to those serving overseas. With the increase in numbers on deployment in recent times this is once again our way of showing our continuing support to them leading into Christmas and the New Year.

You should have by now have received your book "Looking Back Moving Forward". Our thanks go to Ethinvest for sponsoring this publication. It is also on the RSL NSW website where it will be continually updated. One of the aims of the book is to explain the many roles and functions which State Branch has in support of membership and also the Veteran community.

Finally, a note on recent developments here in Australia which have caused concerns about security. To all our members and sub-Branches, I would like to repeat the advice given by authorities which is that we should all be alert especially when we, as veterans, assemble in public. If you are planning a commemorative event - and Remembrance Day is only weeks away - then it's not a bad idea to keep your local police station informed about the services you are holding.

Keep safe and look after your mates

DON ROWE