

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

CIRCULAR



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**THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE
OF AUSTRALIA
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH)**

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PATRON

**HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL THE HONOURABLE DAVID HURLEY AC DSC (Ret'd)
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

CIRCULAR NO: 02/17

FILE NO: GK:JSF: 216

18 January 2017

TO: ALL HONORARY SECRETARIES AND SECRETARIES OF RSL SUB-BRANCHES,
DISTRICT COUNCILS AND STATE COUNCILLORS

EXPIRY DATE: 31 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Apology and Retraction

I, John O'Brien, salaried secretary of the City of Blacktown RSL sub-Branch, sent by email to a number of recipients on the 21st October 2016 a letter and a bundle of documents making certain comments about, and allegations against, Mr Peter Stephenson OAM, RSL NSW Northern Country Vice President.

Those comments and allegations were made without there being any proper basis for them. In reflection, I drew conclusions emotionally, based on speculation, when those conclusions were not capable of being supported by the objective facts. In particular I have no reason to believe Mr Stephenson has in any way acted improperly or fallen short in the performance of his duties. I withdraw the comments and allegations unconditionally.

I understand that I have brought great distress upon Mr Stephenson. I accept that in sending that material I exercised poor judgement, and I sincerely apologise to Mr Stephenson for the hurt and distress caused.

The materials sent by me also disclosed certain information which was confidential in nature.

I ask that to prevent any further damage, anybody in receipt of the material please destroy any copies, and pass this apology and retraction on to anybody to whom they have previously forwarded copies.

I acknowledge that Mr Peter Stephenson has a long and distinguished service to veterans and their families serving as Pensions Officer, sub-Branch Honorary Secretary, sub-Branch President, State Councillor, State Vice-President and Acting State President.

John O'Brien

Handwritten signature of John O'Brien in black ink, written in a cursive style.
28 Dec 2016.