

CIRCULAR



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

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

CIRCULAR NO: 08/17

FILE NO: JOB/JSF: 3293

9 February 2017

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

EXPIRY DATE: 25 April 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Centenary Project at the Anzac Memorial

Please see below a message from the NSW Office of Veterans' Affairs regarding the Centenary Project at the Anzac Memorial. This circular is for the information of sub-Branches and to alert them to the fact they may be contacted regarding this project.

Centenary of Anzac project

As Australia marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War the NSW Government, together with the Trustees of the Anzac Memorial, is extending the Anzac Memorial with new spaces including underground education and interpretation facilities for the community along with completing the original Memorial architect Bruce Dellit's proposed water cascade. A new forecourt at Hyde Park's Liverpool Street entrance will allow for equitable access to the park and to the new facilities. Memorial visitors will enter the new *Hall of Service* (named to mark 100 years of military service since the Great War) via a walkway through the water cascade. The Hall will function as a greeting and orientation space for the public, including tour groups and school children; and as a venue for ceremonies and functions, flowing onto exhibition galleries and education facilities.

The walls in the *Hall of Service* will display the names of the towns, suburbs and settlements across NSW where men and women enlisted from for the First World War. One thousand, six hundred and ninety eight enlistment locations from across NSW will be displayed, showing the geographical reach of the call to enlist and signal the willingness and enthusiasm of so many from diverse regions prepared to fight far from home. Alongside each place name will be displayed a sample of soil, collected from the listed locale to embody the ground where the service men and women came from, many of whom would not return home.

A community engagement program will be undertaken to collect the samples of soil, and will commence on Anzac Day 2017. It is anticipated that the soil collection of all enlistment locations will take approximately 12 months, concluding on Anzac Day 2018. The soil will then be treated and transported to the Anzac Memorial for installation into the *Hall of Service*.

The office of Veteran's Affairs is currently working to pinpoint the exact soil collection points for each location and would like to engage with sub-branches around the state to assist with information and guidance on applicable locations. Approximately 800 enlistment locations are located in close proximity to World War One Memorials and other places of interest, and it would be valuable to work together with the sub-branches to ensure that the most suitable Memorial or point of interest is selected. As locations are finalised, there will likely be opportunities for soil collection "events" to take place, and the sub-branches and local stakeholders will be invited to attend and participate.

For more information about the soil collection project, please contact Nick Young, Manager, Centenary of Anzac program on 9228 4952.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jeff O'Brien

Chief Operating Officer/Assistant State Secretary