



STATE COUNCIL  
RSL NSW

# STATE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

No: 3 -12 Date: June 2012

MEMBERS



## State Council Dinner

The Masonic Club Sydney, Saturday 16 June, State Councillors, Members, guests, staff and friends of the RSL witnessed the presentation to a very surprised RSL's solicitor Mr. John Cannings OAM an award of **Honorary Membership for Life of the League** in recognition for the many years of service he has given as an Honorary Legal Adviser.



### [National Congress](#)

This years National Congress will be held in Sydney at the **Powerhouse Museum**, Darling Harbour from Tuesday 25th September to Wednesday 26th with a formal dinner on to mark the occasion.

All RSL NSW members are invited to attend what should be an 'enlightened' congress after a new format was produced by national Secretary Derek Robson and his Canberra team in Melbourne last year.

*See National President Ken Doolan's newsletter attached to at end of this document for more information.*



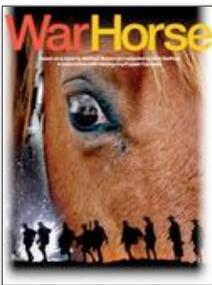
### [RSL NSW Auditors](#)

The appointed auditors for this years RSL NSW annual returns are '**Grant Thornton**' Pty Ltd.



### [RSL NSW Honorary Legal Advisors](#)

The appointed Honorary Legal Advisors for RSL NSW are Mr. John Cannings OAM of **Pricewaterhouse Coopers Legal** and Mr. Mark Bowen of **Bowen Legal**.



### [RSL WBI](#)

Councillor Darren McManus-Smith has been appointed the **Defence Liaison Officer** for all matters between RSL WBI and Defence personnel requirements.

### [War Horse - Stage Production](#)

State Council has agreed to support a promotional offer for the new Australian stage production of '**War Horse**'.

A series of educational touring workshops for school groups of how the production of the staging occurs is part of this promotion. The Sydney launch will be mid July with the first Sydney stage production due April of 2013. The first Australian production will open in **Melbourne** late December 2012.



### [Sub-Branch - Training Seminars](#)

State Council has seen the positive feedback on recent training of staff and sub-Branch members and have decided to continue training seminars.

**Tax compliance issues, Recruiting, Code of Conduct** are some of the many subjects to be included as requirements are identified by sub-Branch's and State Branch.



### **AZAC Art Awards**

RSL Anzac Art Awards will be launched by the Teachers sub-Branch at the Education Department in Sydney **mid July** after students return from mid year break.

New format 'Art' competition for all NSW students will run until Friday November 2. Competition details on website after launch with **Circular** from State Branch.



### **2013 State Congress - Coffs Harbour**

A circular will soon be formulated listing **accommodation** and other information relating to local activities in the Coffs Harbour region for next years State Congress.



### **Affiliate Membership**

Affiliate Membership is ready to be accommodated at State Branch for those sub-Branches that have or are about to **approve** the new form of membership into the League.

State Branch Circular sent last month has application form and will be on **RSL NSW website** on arrival of the new badge due at State Branch this month.



**HOME FRONT**  
WARTIME SYDNEY 1939-45

**MUSEUM OF SYDNEY**  
on the site of first Government House  
City Bridge & Philip Streets, Sydney  
Open daily 9.30am - 5pm  
www.moh.net.au

**HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST**

Exhibition on now

The banner features a woman in a military-style uniform on the left. It includes the title 'HOME FRONT' in large red letters, the subtitle 'WARTIME SYDNEY 1939-45' in a blue banner, and logos for the Museum of Sydney and Historic Houses Trust. A red diagonal banner in the top right corner says 'Exhibition on now'.

# STATEWIDE SNAP SHOTS

*RSL National Promotions Manager Pat Scammell (former Olympic athlete) at the recent AFOF packing day with famous Australian running legend Albie Thomas and his wife Nola from the Ramsgate sub-Branch.*



*'ANZAC of The Year' -  
State Councilor Tony Toussaint.*



*NSW Minister for Ceremonies Victor Dominello surround by many of our distinguished RSL friends and members as part of the ambassadors for the NSW Centenary of commemoration v committee. L:R; Major-General Gordon Maitland AO OBE RFD ED (Retd), Olwyn Green, OAM, Justice Dennis Cowdroy OAM, General Peter John Cosgrove AC, MC (Retd), Rusty Priest AM.*



## **RSL National President Ken Doolan Newsletter No 4 - 2012**

### **1. Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission**

In Late March 2012 the Attorney General the Hon Nicola Roxon on behalf of the Commonwealth Government directed the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to undertake an Inquiry into Commonwealth legal barriers to older persons (45 years and over) participating in the workforce or other productive work. It was stated that the overarching objective of the Government was "to keep people in the work force and paying taxes longer rather than being in receipt of the old age pension – and to support people in self funded retirement."

On 24 May 2012 the President of the ALRC sent a letter of invitation to the RSL along with a copy of an ALRC Issues Paper about the legal age barrier inquiry. This sought a response from the RSL by 14 June 2012 about the ALRC Inquiry and about two specific questions posed in the Issues Paper.

A copy of my reply to the President of the ALRC along with the RSL submission about this important matter has been posted on the RSL National Web Site [www.rsl.org.au](http://www.rsl.org.au) .

We are continuing our research on the broad issues called up by this Inquiry and about the issue on which we have reserved our position.

### **2. Military Court of Australia Bill 2012**

I have continued to closely monitor developments about this most important topic since my meeting in March with the Attorney General the Hon Nicola Roxon (see NP Newsletter No 2 of 2012).

As a follow-up on my discussion with the Attorney General, the Department of Defence and the Attorney General's Department arranged a meeting in the Department of Defence on 26 April 2012 at which senior representatives explained the intention of the Government to proceed with a new piece of legislation to be known as the Military Court of Australia Bill 2012. With only one major change (that of deleting the prospect of a "not guilty" finding being appealed – and to which we had objected in our earlier submission) and some minor changes, this draft legislation was unchanged from that to which we had earlier taken exception.

More recently (on Friday 8 June) I was accompanied by Brigadier (Ret'd) the Hon Alan Abadee AM RFD QC when I met with Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister Mr Shawn Lambton at Parliament House to further discuss the RSL concerns about this impending legislation. Senior legal representatives of the Department of Defence and the Attorney General's Department attended this meeting. We were given a fair hearing and it now remains to be seen as to whether the very significant concerns we have continued to raise will be taken into account.

### **3. Attendance at Reserve Cadets and Young Veterans Forums**

On Saturday 19 May I attended the Reserve Cadets Conference hosted by the Head of Reserves, Cadets and Employer Support Division, Major General Paul Brereton at Mascot, Sydney. On Wednesday 13 June I attended and addressed the Young Veterans' Forum held at the DVA offices Sydney.

My aim in being present on both occasions was to emphasise the importance of the RSL looking to the future and of building bridges of understanding with those who we hope will be the RSL members of the future.

The Reserve Cadet conference provided the opportunity for informal discussions with many dedicated young Australians who have chosen to join the Army, Navy and Air Force Cadets – and to hear from experts in motivation and in understanding Australian youth of their perceptions about the youth of today and of the challenges these perceptions provide.

Many of the Cadets voiced their pleasure at being invited by RSL Sub Branches to participate in ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies and I encourage all Sub Branches to build and strengthen their bonds to the Army, Navy and Air Forces Cadet units in their localities.

The Young Veterans Forum covered a broader range of topics and provided me with an opportunity of hearing from our younger members of their aspirations. I have encouraged them to provide written input to the RSL policy paper I intend launching at the 2012 National Conference (see Item 1 in NP Newsletter No 3 of 2012).

#### **4. Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia AGM**

At the invitation of the National President of the VVAA I attended and addressed their annual congress at Geelong on Thursday 24 May. I continue to take every opportunity to keep in contact with other ex-service organisations and to explain the RSL stance on contemporary issues. I have been given to understand that this is welcomed as is our initiative of inviting representatives from various other ex-service organisations to meetings of the RSL National Conditions of Service Committee.

#### **5. ANZAC Centenary**

The RSL will continue to be closely involved in planning for the Centenary of ANZAC at national, state and local levels. The ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board (ACAB), of which I am a member, aims to provide recommendations to Government later this year; and, of course, within the last Federal Budget, the Government made available some \$83.5M for the Centenary. As was envisaged by the National Commission for the Centenary of ANZAC, funding for this commemoration must also come from all other sectors and involve as many Australians as possible. It is to be hoped RSL Branches and sub-branches will take the opportunity of full involvement after the Commonwealth Government makes known its decisions about the recommendations of the ACAB.

Though there will be an early focus on the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, thought is also being directed towards commemorations of WWI battles on the Western Front in the period 2016 to 2018. I was invited to a meeting with Mr Jean-Arthur Regibeau, a senior Belgian official who recently visited Australia and His Excellency the Belgian Ambassador Mr Patrick Renault at the Belgian Embassy on 5 June to explore possibilities for these commemorations which might involve the RSL. The idea being canvassed is that there might be a modest senior student (young adult) exchange program involving the RSL and a like organisation in Belgium during this period. We will continue to explore this and other possibilities.

#### **6. 2012 RSL National Conference**

This important event will be held at the Powerhouse Museum Auditorium, Darling Harbour, Sydney on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 September 2012. I encourage all members of State & Territory Branch Executives to attend; and as delegates to the recent NSW State Branch Conference will recall, my hope is that as many RSL members as possible will also grace the conference with their presence. I particularly encourage members resident in the Sydney metropolitan area to consider attending.

The Conference program is nearing finalisation and will be issued shortly. Work on the framework of the RSL policy paper I intend launching on Wednesday 26 September is well advanced and will be with the Chairmen of the National Committees and members of the National Executive within the next couple of weeks.

**Ken Doolan 21** June 2012