

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served in every conflict and peacekeeping mission in which Australia has participated, from the Boer War to the current conflict in Afghanistan. Prior to 1967 they served despite a national policy that discouraged and at times prohibited them from enlisting.

Despite these barriers, Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders did enlist and they offered their lives for a country that at the time did not afford them full rights of citizenship. Moreover, they rendered distinguished service in all theatres of conflict. Aboriginal soldiers served in the Boer War and went ashore on the first ANZAC Day in 1915. They have been decorated for gallantry, taken prisoner of war and, sadly, killed or wounded in action. Some lie forever in foreign lands.

Australia prides itself on its spirit of "mateship" and "remembrance", yet there is one gaping hole in our rich military history. Until now, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service has largely been unrecognised. There is no national memorial of significance to Aboriginal



*Artist's Impression of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial*

servicemen and women anywhere in Australia. In South Australia alone we have over a thousand war memorials, including memorials to war dogs and horses, yet we do not have a memorial of note to Aboriginals who served!

To this end, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial Committee has embarked on an appeal to raise \$700,000 to build a Memorial that will recognise this special group of Australians.

As we look toward the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015, this is a truly appropriate time to realise a long overdue initiative that will demonstrate community respect

for the service and sacrifice rendered by all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans, and to finally render them the national recognition they so richly deserve.

The first of its kind in Australia, the memorial will stand proudly in the military heartland of our state. It was designed by local artists and will have a strong and symbolic presence, providing a place for remembrance and a focal point for reflection.

If you require any further details or wish to support this worthy project, please contact Simone Campbell at the appeals office by telephone on: (08) 8226 1193 or by email: [campbell.simone@dpc.sa.gov.au](mailto:campbell.simone@dpc.sa.gov.au)

**Aboriginal Commemorative Service**

Aboriginal veterans will be honoured at the sixth annual Aboriginal Veterans' Commemorative Service at 10.30am on Friday, 1 June, 2012 at the South Australian National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide.

The event originated in 2007 as part of Reconciliation Week to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the granting of full rights of citizenship to our Aboriginal peoples.

**Sapper Jamie Larcombe Memorial Parndana Area School**

The veterans' community recall and mourn the loss of the most recent South Australian killed in Afghanistan. Spr Jamie Larcombe came from Parndana on Kangaroo Island. He was killed in action on 19 February, 2011. Jamie is the son of Steven and Trish Larcombe and brother of Ann Marie, Emily and April. Jamie is well remembered by all South Australians and will be honoured by a memorial to be unveiled at the Parndana Area School. The Memorial will honour Jamie's link with the school and his

contribution to the Parndana area. It will be unveiled by the Hon. Jack Snelling M.P., Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 26 April in the presence of Jamie's family, friends and his Army mates.

**Kapyong Day Service**

The annual Kapyong Day Service will be conducted by the R.A.R. Association (S.A. Branch) at the National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide commencing at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 April, 2012.

The service will be on the north-west side of the main memorial and will be followed by drinks and lunch at the London Tavern, North Terrace, Adelaide. The commemorative address will be given by Gerry Harrison O.A.M., ex-3 R.A.R. at the Battle of Maryang San and member of the Veterans' Advisory Council.

Dress for the service will be medals for ex-service personnel.

For further information please contact Adrian Craig, Ceremonial Officer, 3 R.A.R. (S.A. Branch) by telephone on 8263 4784 or by email on [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

**Enquiries about Veterans' Voice can be directed to:**

Veterans SA  
G.P.O. Box 2264  
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001  
Phone: (08) 8226 8552  
Email: [veteranssa@sa.gov.au](mailto:veteranssa@sa.gov.au)

**Funding Opportunities**

To assist ex-service organisations, Veterans SA has put together a consolidated list of funding opportunities that governments, both State and Commonwealth, are offering to the veterans' community.

Please telephone my office on 8226 8552 should you require any further information about these funding opportunities.



# Veterans' Voice

**A Message from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs**



Welcome to this ANZAC edition of Veterans' Voice.

This is the second time I have been the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs. I was initially appointed in 2010 only to lose the portfolio to my colleague and friend the Hon. Tom Kenyon M.P. the following year. Minister Kenyon did an excellent job as Minister for Veterans' Affairs, his energy, interest in, knowledge of and concern for the veterans' community will be sorely missed.

I feel close to the portfolio and particularly privileged to be re-appointed to it.

As some of you may recall, my father John is a Vietnam veteran having seen service with 1A.R.U., 1R.A.R. and 5R.A.R. during 1968 and 1969, so I feel I have empathy with veterans and especially their families.

I have recently appointed the Veterans' Advisory Council (V.A.C.) for 2012. I thank the outgoing members and congratulate incoming members. The V.A.C. continues

Invitations can be directed to:

The Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
G.P.O. Box 2264  
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001  
Phone: (08) 8226 8552  
Email: [veteranssa@sa.gov.au](mailto:veteranssa@sa.gov.au)

**Do you want to keep in touch, to have your say or find out what is happening in the Veterans' Community?**

Would you like to receive regular articles and updates about issues of relevance to the veterans' community?

If so, please contact Shane or Paul at Veterans SA on 8226 8552 or if you have an email account then email [veteranssa@sa.gov.au](mailto:veteranssa@sa.gov.au)



*Minister Snelling with LTCOL Mick Garraway, Commanding Officer, 7R.A.R. following his appointment to the V.A.C.*

to do an excellent job and the rotation of members ensures constant refreshing of the Council's ideas and experience.

Since its inception, the V.A.C. has represented the veterans' community with distinction. It has achieved its mission to ensure your views are represented at the highest levels of State Government.

On your behalf I would like to thank Sir Eric Neal A.C. C.V.O. for his capable leadership and splendid example during the last twelve months. I know that all of you appreciate his guidance and wise counsel.

I look forward to attending more veterans' functions as the year progresses and to meeting as many of you as possible. Please feel free to invite me to visit your organisation or special function and I will do my best to join you.

With best wishes,

Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs



*Minister Snelling with 2012 V.A.C. Members (Back L-R: BRIG Laurie Lewis A.M. (Retd), Mr John Gillman, LTCOL Mick Garraway, Mr Bill Schmitt A.M., GPCAPT Robert Black A.M. (Retd), Mr Michael Benyk J.P., Mr Gerry Harrison O.A.M., Mr Michael von Berg M.C. & Ms Cheryl Fittock. Front: Mr Leon Eddy, Mrs Kath Harrison, Minister Snelling, Sir Eric Neal A.C. C.V.O., Mr Jock Statton O.A.M., MAJ Ian Smith (Retd) & LTCOL John Spencer O.A.M. R.F.D. (Retd). Absent: Mrs Jan Wallent).*

## Planning for the ANZAC Centenary Period – 2014 to 2018

On 13 March, 2012 Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston A.C. A.F.C. (Retd) visited Adelaide to meet with the Governor, Premier Weatherill, Minister Snelling, Sir Eric Neal A.C. C.V.O., the Board of the RSL (S.A. Branch) and various veterans' and broader community representatives, to discuss preparations for the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations from 2014-2018.

The ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board is chaired by A.C.M. Houston and has 16 general and four ex-officio members. On 9 February, 2012, the Hon. Warren Snowdon M.P., announced the membership of six Working Groups that will report to and support the ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board.

The Board and Working Group members are Australians drawn from all walks of life and include historians, business leaders, academics, journalists, a sports personality, a singer, teachers, artists, a former politician, former service personnel, an Indigenous Rhodes Scholar, a war widow and two Victoria Cross recipients.

The Board and the Working Groups will play a pivotal role in planning for the ANZAC Centenary commemorations, particularly in the areas of:

- Education and curriculum;
- Military and cultural history;
- Business;
- Ceremonial and commemorations;
- Youth; and
- Engagement with state, territory and local government.

The role of the Working Groups will be to consult within their sectors and report directly to the Board. The Board will then make its recommendations to the Commonwealth Government.

The South Australian members of the ANZAC Centenary Advisory Board are:

- His Honour Judge Rauf Soulio, Chair of the Australian Multicultural Council; and
- Professor Christine Charles, Chair, Resources Technology Innovation Centre.

The South Australian Members of the Working Groups are:

- John Schumann, Singer/Songwriter, Military and Cultural History Working Group;
- Ms Rebecca Richards, Indigenous Rhodes Scholar, Youth Working Group; and
- Mr Bill Denny A.M., Director, Veterans SA, State, Territory and Local Government Working Group.

An informal arrangement has been made between A.C.M. Houston and Sir Eric Neal A.C. C.V.O., whereby Sir Eric has agreed to act as a "community pulse" for A.C.M. Houston. Sir Eric and A.C.M. Houston will speak regularly so A.C.M. Houston may gauge South Australia's community perception of ANZAC Centenary preparations.

## Veterans Honoured on Australia Day

Two prominent veterans were honoured in the recent Australia Day Honours List.

Squadron Leader Bob Cowper D.F.C. and Bar added an O.A.M. to his already distinguished list of post nominals. Bob is a true "ace" of World War II. He finished the war as Commanding Officer of 456 Squadron, Australia's only Night Fighter Squadron. During his service Bob did three operational tours – Northern Ireland, Malta and finally England, pre and post D Day.

He survived two crash landings - one when his Beaufighter crashed in the Sahara desert and another off the coast of Malta. For his distinguished service in the Malta action Bob was awarded a D.F.C. He was subsequently awarded a Bar to his D.F.C. for service closer to D Day.

Bob has retained an enormous loyalty to the members of his unit and their families.

Bob was asked to step in after the last of the Australian Battle of Britain pilots died and represented them in England at a memorial service in 1995. More recently Bob coordinated a memorial honour board commemorating the service of our Australian Battle of Britain Pilots, which was unveiled during September 2011 and will eventually rest in the R.A.A.F. Museum at Point Cook.

Bob lives quietly in retirement at Netley with his wife Kay. Congratulations Bob – fighter ace and local living legend!

Graham Dunstan O.A.M. has been active in the ex-service community for many years and is the State Vice-President of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (V.V.A.).

Graham joined the R.A.A.F. in 1954. He served in support of the Maralinga Nuclear Testing at Woomera, in Malaya during the

Indonesian Confrontation in 1963 and in Vietnam during 1964-65. Graham was discharged from the R.A.A.F. at his own request in 1967.

Graham is also a member of the Vietnam Veterans' Federation, the RSL, the Vietnamese Veterans' Association and was a V.V.A. representative on the committee that planned and erected the Vietnam War Memorial. Graham's close links with Vietnamese veterans were recognised when he became the first non-Vietnamese person awarded honorary membership of the Vietnamese Veterans' Association (S.A. Branch).

Graham is a well deserved recipient and can be proud that his bi-partisan support of all Vietnam-era ex-service organisations has allowed him to make a significant contribution to the broader ex-service community.



Minister Snelling with Squadron Leader Bob Cowper D.F.C. and Bar, O.A.M. and Mr Graham Dunstan O.A.M.

## Veterans Radio Updates

Weekly Updates are featured on the following radio shows from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.

Show	Time	Station
VF	Tuesday 6pm - 8pm	88.7 FM (CoastFM)
WA	Thursday 7pm - 8pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
RSL	Thursday 6pm - 6.15pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
Vietnam Veterans	Monday 6pm - 8pm	105.1 FM (TraxFM) Mid North of SA

## Veterans' Health Advisory Council Success

The Veterans' Health Advisory Council (VHAC) was established in 2009 to advise the Minister for Health and Ageing about the health issues facing veterans, war widows and their families, and to advocate on their behalf.

Although our World War II veterans are ageing and our World War I veterans are gone, the VHAC will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of health care for veterans in South Australia. It is estimated that there are 29,000 veterans of all conflicts in South Australia together with approximately 30,500 partners and 27,000 children.

The VHAC recently completed the SA Health Framework for Veterans' Healthcare 2012 – 2016. This excellent document outlines the issues that currently exist in the provision of healthcare in the veterans' community and makes recommendations that will address these issues.

The VHAC meets at least four times a year and is chaired by Mr Jock Statton O.A.M., Deputy Chair, Veterans' Advisory Council and State President of the RSL. All VHAC members are appointed by the Minister for Health and most members have experienced military service.

For more information about the VHAC or to refer an issue to the VHAC for consideration, please contact Scott Harris, Senior Project Officer, Operational Planning Unit, SA Health, on 8222 0742 or email: scott.harris@health.sa.gov.au



Minister Snelling with members of the VHAC (from left: Mr Michael Curry, Mr Jock Statton O.A.M., Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus C.S.C., Professor Alexander McFarlane A.O., Dr Chris Butcher & LTCOL John Spencer O.A.M. R.F.D. (Retd))

## Lest We Forget

### Philip De Quetteville Robin, Champion SANFL footballer and ANZAC

Phil Robin was a bank teller from Norwood. He enlisted in 10Bn 1st AIF on 24 August, 1914. He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915 - the very first ANZAC Day - and with his school mate Arthur Blackburn, penetrated to Third Ridge. This was the furthest any Allied troops advanced in the whole ANZAC Campaign. Robin was killed on the third day of the campaign. Blackburn went on to be awarded the Victoria Cross for actions in France.

What many do not know is that Philip De Quetteville Robin was a famous Norwood footballer. A product of St Peter's College, Phil Robin made his league debut with Norwood in 1907, became a regular the following season, and for the next seven years was widely acknowledged as one of the finest wingmen in the game. An interstate representative on seven occasions, he played in South Australia's victorious 1911 carnival team. That same year saw him receive Norwood's best and fairest player award, making him the earliest known such recipient on record.

En route to Gallipoli Robin was granted special permission to marry his Adelaide sweetheart, Miss Nellie Honeywell, an army nurse, in Cairo on Sunday, January 17, 1915.

Proposing a toast to the bride and groom, the CO, Colonel S. Price Weir, as reported in the Adelaide newspaper The Observer on 20 February, 1915, said:

"I do not suppose that a similar wedding has been solemnized so close to the mighty Pyramids for many years; indeed for many thousands of years.

We have all known Pte. Robin as a brilliant footballer. When he wore the red-and-blue of the Norwood club, he played hard and clean, and helped to win the game for his side. Now that he has donned the colours of his country, red, white, and blue, I am sure that he will be as good and brave a soldier as he was an exponent of football. We all hope that when we have defeated our enemies he will return to South Australia with his wife, to peace, long life, and prosperity." (Cheers).

Well it was not to be. Phil Robin's best man, Malcolm Teesdale-Smith, was wounded at the Gallipoli landing and died that day. Phil Robin barely survived him. More tragically his war bride also died in childbirth with her child, soon after.

Lest We Forget.



Philip De Quetteville Robin - Image used with permission of Mr Charles Robin Ashwin (relative)