

Veterans' Community Salutes Jock Statton AM

After twelve years as a Branch or State President of the RSL and many more years of service in a variety of other important ex-service roles Jock Statton AM has finally "called it a day."

At a gathering at the War Veterans Home at Myrtle Bank the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Jack Snelling MP spoke to a gathering of Jock's colleagues and friends and reflected on his contribution to the ex-service community.

Below is a section of the Minister's speech:

"May I begin by acknowledging Sir Eric Neal, the Chair of the Veterans' Advisory Council, The Honourable John Hill MP Member for Kauria and former Minister for Health, David Everitt, Chair of the Veterans' Health Advisory Council, Members of the Veterans' Health Advisory Council and the Veterans' Advisory Council.

As important as it is, tonight is more than simply farewelling Jock Statton from the VHAC. Jock has been an institution in the veterans' community for many years and his departure will be keenly felt by all of us. Let me remind you of some of his background and contribution.

Jock was a national serviceman. He was invited to join the army in 1967 – an offer he could not refuse! As befits his no-nonsense attitude, he served in the Royal Australian Infantry and saw active service in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969 with 9R.A.R. He served as a first scout – an infantry section position that was probably not as highly sought as some others!

Jock's senior involvement in the ex-service community commenced when he joined the Blackwood R.S.L. He was a member for many years and President for four. He became State President of the R.S.L. in 2004 and served for eight years, stepping down last year.



Minister Snelling farewells Jock Statton AM.

He was recognised by his community when he was awarded the O.A.M. in 2003 and this was upgraded to the A.M. in 2013. Jock's achievements are many and are quite spectacular.

On the R.S.L. front, I know he would point to the changes he was able to make to the R.S.L. Constitution so that members can now be appointed the R.S.L. Board. Amalgamating Aged Care and R.S.L. Housing under R.S.L. Care, thus combining all R.S.L. accommodation services, is another I know he is proud of.

Jock has always had a passion for improving Veterans' Health. In 2007, he and the C.E.O. of the R.S.L., John Spencer, proposed the idea of working more closely with the State Government of the day in order to advance the causes of veterans and youth.

Between them they put this policy into practice. While not compromising the essential ethic of political bi-partisanship critical to the R.S.L., they created a solid relationship with State Government that delivered wonderful benefits to their membership and the wider community.

Jock and John were the first to propose the creation of a Veterans' Advisory Council. Next came the proposal to create the Veterans' Health Advisory Council. Finally came the proposal to establish the ANZAC Spirit School Prize.

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.

All these ideas – jointly progressed in partnership by the R.S.L. and the State Government, have blossomed. In turn they have helped develop the relationship with the State Government that saw the establishment and ongoing government grant of \$100,000 per annum to assist the R.S.L. with carrying out its commemorative and other responsibilities on behalf of our state.

These ideas, this cooperation, has set South Australia apart from the rest of the nation. Indeed with the creation of the V.A.C., the VHAC and Veterans SA, I know we are the envy of the other states. The VHAC is a really good specific example. That august body worked with the State Government to create a Framework for Veterans' Health Care.

As you know the plan was set on four pillars:

- Mental Health
- Primary care
- Aged care; and
- Oral Care

The Framework was completed and I was pleased to sign off on it, together with my colleague John Hill, just on 12 months ago. Jock, like all good leaders, you are choosing to leave at the "top of your game" – I congratulate you for that. Before I finish I also want to mention your wife Mary. I think it is fair to say that it was Mary's support that, in large measure, allowed you to keep going – especially in these last few years.

So – thank you to Mary and thank you to Jock. You have both made an extraordinary and much valued contribution to our community and we are grateful."

Enquiries about Veterans' Voice can be directed to:

Veterans SA
GPO Box 2264
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001
Phone: (08) 8226 8552
Email: veteransa@sa.gov.au



Veterans' Voice

A Message from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Welcome to the Spring edition of Veterans' Voice.

It's been a busy few months since I last wrote to you!

I enjoy attending veterans' community functions, so keep those invitations coming in!

In April I was privileged to attend the wonderful event conducted by the Vietnamese Veterans' Association and the Vietnam Veterans Association to remember the 58 South Australian who were lost in the Vietnam War. The families of many of those who made the supreme sacrifice attended and it was heart-warming to see the Vietnamese community express their gratitude first hand to families who have suffered so much.

Since then I have visited the Vietnam Veterans Federation for the annual Fire Support Base Coral /Balmoral Commemoration. I also attended the Annual Aboriginal Veterans' Commemorative Service. I was able to present commemorative medals to the children of those members of 7RAR who deployed to Afghanistan and a couple of days later I attended the 7RAR Welcome Home Parade on the Torrens Parade Ground.

Vietnam Veterans Day was made very special by the commemorative ceremony conducted by the Vietnam Veterans' Association and the Royal Australian Regiment Association.

Most recently I spoke at the farewell for Jock Statton AM who has finally retired from ex-service duty are doing so much for us all.

I have kept abreast of what the Veterans' Advisory Council (the VAC) has been doing. I know what a wonderful contribution it makes under the chairmanship of Sir Eric Neal AC CVO and I think it is one of the most hard working and productive bodies in the State.

To give you an example of what the VAC does I will run through some of the matters covered at the VAC Meeting held on 9 August, 2013. In that meeting the following matters were discussed:



Minister Snelling with (l-r) Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, Chair, Veterans Advisory Council; Dr Pamela Schulz OAM, Chair, Defence Reserves Support Council and Mr Steven Marshall MP, Leader of the Opposition & Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs at a Reception to Acknowledge and Encourage Employer/Organisation Support for Defence Reservists in South Australia.

- Advocacy on behalf of soldiers wounded on active service, who are impacted by adverse tax rulings. This South Australian initiative (RAR Assoc.) will, hopefully, see a major tax impediment levied against our serving soldiers removed.
 - Advocacy on behalf of former members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, to ensure they receive exactly the same entitlements as their AIF colleagues.
 - Clarification was sought to reinforce within the ex-service community the law relating to the wearing of unofficial medals.
 - The VAC continued advocacy with the Department of Defence on behalf of the members of the Civilian Surgical and Medical Teams who served in Vietnam.
 - A progress report was given on the creation of a South Australian Charter for Veterans.
 - Strong individual advocacy to the Federal Government was continued on behalf of two South Australian veterans.
 - Communication with the National Archives to ensure regulations concerning release of personal information from veterans' records to ensure privacy concerns are not compromised.
 - A VAC proposal was made to the Federal Government for the creation of a medal to be awarded to the NOK of Soldiers Killed on Active Service.
 - ANZAC Centenary planning.
 - Veterans Pastoral Care Service Proposal.
 - The production of the State Ex-Service Commemorative Calendar 2014.
 - State proposals to the Federal Government re the Review of Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.
 - Construction of a memorial to Private Tomas Dale, killed in action in Afghanistan on 20 August, 2010.
- The VAC continues to provide a unique opportunity for our veterans' community to initiate dialogue, seek advocacy or to request change on behalf of the veterans' community in South Australia.
- In conclusion I note that on Sunday, 10 November, 2013, Her Excellency the Governor-General will unveil the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial on the Torrens Parade Ground. It will be a wonderful event that is long overdue. I hope to see as many of you as possible at what will be a very special event.
- Lest we forget.
- Jack Snelling*
Hon Jack Snelling MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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 MP.

If you would like to receive our weekly 'Minister's Message' email, please email veteranssa@sa.gov.au to subscribe.

Show	Time	Station
VVF	Tue 6pm - 8pm	88.7 FM (CoastFM)
RSL	Thur 6pm - 6.15pm	1197 AM (SRPH)
Vietnam Veterans	Mon 6pm - 8pm	105.1 FM (TraxFM) Mid North of SA
The Legacy Hour	Mon 3pm - 4pm	101.5FM (Radio Adelaide)

Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph

Saturday, 7 September, 2013 saw the ex-service community of South Australia gather in Lundie Gardens, South Terrace, Adelaide to embrace the Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph – the very first ANZAC Memorial in Australia.

The cenotaph was unveiled on 7 September, 1915, by the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson – a mere 135 days after the Gallipoli landings. Because so few South Australians are aware of the cenotaph, it is often referred to as the “forgotten memorial.” No-one knows the reason for this lack of interest, but it is thought that with one exception, there has been no formal remembrance service conducted before it in “living memory.”

When it was dedicated 98 years ago the

cenotaph was located in Wattle Grove, a small, picturesque grove off Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue a few hundred metres from where it currently stands. The creation of Wattle Grove and the construction of the cenotaph was a project of the Wattle Day League and a Mr Walter Torode.

The Wattle Day League was a women’s group formed to raise funds to provide amenities for the men in the trenches at the front. Mr Torode was a local builder who wanted to commemorate the landing of Australasian troops at Gallipoli. Wattle Grove itself was intended to be a “symbolic battlefield” - a metaphor for the Dardanelles. The beautiful red granite was roughly hewn to specifically represent the rugged cliffs of Gallipoli. A granite cross



Peter Goers OAM delivering the Ataturk Statement at the Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph on 7 September, 2013.

Veteran of the Month – Evenings with Peter Goers ABC 891

Peter Goers is a top rating night time radio broadcaster. He presents an eclectic programme from 7-10pm five nights a week. Peter has long been a strong supporter of veterans and the veterans’ community. He is the Patron of the Spirit of Gallipoli Association, an organisation forged by the 9RAR Association and the Turkish Association of South Australia.

Peter is the ABC broadcaster for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil, using his skills to take the atmosphere and message of that ceremony to every listener in the State.

Peter also hosts the popular Veteran on the Month segment on his evening programme on the first Monday of each month. After the 8.00pm news Peter introduces Bill Denny AM, Director of Veterans SA and then interviews a veteran that has been selected by Veteran SA.

Over the last year the following veterans have told their stories:

- John “Jethro” Thompson, Vietnam Veteran, author and multiple amputee from a mine incident in the infamous “Barrier Minefield.”
- Dr Roger Capps, a former RAAF doctor who saw service in Malaysia, the First Gulf War, Rwanda, Bougainville and East Timor.
- Gareth Knapman, Historian from Monash University who spoke on the history of ANZAC Day in South Australia.
- Bill Schmitt AM, World War II veteran (2/3 MG Bn) and former POW who spoke of his recent trip to Japan.
- The cast of the stage show “Glory Dazed” a play that was performed as a part of the Adelaide Fringe and focussed on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in contemporary veterans.
- Colin McArthur, World War II veteran and former member of 2/7 Fd Regt.



was added in 1918 to recognise the allies withdrawal from Gallipoli, and the sacrifice of those who would remain there forever.

The use of the words **Australasian** and **Dardanelles** alerts us to the fact that **ANZAC** and **Gallipoli** had not yet been accepted into common usage.

The cenotaph represents a spontaneous response by organisations that realised there was little hope that families would ever see the graves of their loved ones. The response quickly progressed to grief - a grief that saw women from the Soldiers Mothers Association regularly gather to conduct ANZAC Day services in front of the memorial. The image adjacent this article shows just some of the mothers that came to grieve - the loss of their loved one signified by the ribbon on their lapel.

Veterans SA intends that a remembrance service will be conducted annually and hope that the Governor-General will join us in 2015 to commemorate the centenary of this memorial and to acknowledge what it represents.

- Bob McIntosh, AFC, RAAF pilot who saw service in Korea and Vietnam and who, with his wife, subsequently became a “flying padre” in the outback.
- Jack Thomas, World War II veteran (2/3 MG Bn) and former POW in the undersea coal mines in Japan.
- Jeff Medwell, World War II pilot who flew in the South West Pacific Campaign.
- Malcolm Wells, CO of 7RAR recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.
- Bill Corey, World War II veteran (2/43 Inf Bn) Veteran of Tobruk, El Alamein and New Guinea and tireless community worker.

Veterans SA welcomes your suggestions about who you might be interviewed? We are particularly keen to identify female veterans, especially those who saw service in World War II.

If you would like to suggest a name please contact Veterans SA on 8226 8552.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, South Australia.

To be unveiled by the Governor-General on Sunday 10 November 2013.

Many Australians do not realise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women have volunteered to serve in every war in which Australia has been involved.

They have been involved in every conflict and most peace-keeping missions from the Boer War to the current day in Afghanistan. Regrettably it is not possible to accurately determine how many Australian Aboriginal people have served in the Australian Defence Force. That is because Government policy has varied over time. At various points Aboriginal people were discouraged or prohibited from enlisting – prompting those who wished to enlist to remain silent about their cultural heritage. While it is known that significant numbers of Aboriginal people served, identifying them in service records that did not record Aboriginality is difficult but is the subject of ongoing research.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers have been decorated for gallantry, wounded in action and been taken as prisoners of war. Many lost their lives and, tragically, they lie forever in foreign lands away from their “country.”

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial was first conceived in 2007. The task of fundraising was approached in earnest in 2012 and the required funds were raised.

The generosity of South Australians was a sure testament to the perceived merit of the Memorial.

The construction is well underway and it is expected to be concluded well before unveiling and dedication by the Governor-General on Sunday, 10 November, 2013. It is hoped that the memorial will, in due course, be afforded national status.



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial will truly recognise the significant contribution made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards the security of our nation in times of great peril. It will draw together the final threads of the rich tapestry of remembrance that is so much a part of the ANZAC spirit and, more broadly, what it means to be Australian.

The Memorial

The Memorial will comprise a Ceremonial Centre. Culturally significant elements will include a Coolamon, the Rainbow Serpent and a granite boulder.

The Coolamon will be the central artefact to hold the ritual fire that will be lit to honour and remember those who have served. The Rainbow Serpent is a national symbol that tells the story of the creation period. To Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the creator spirit is presented in a variety of physical forms, most notably in the physical representation of the Rainbow Dreaming Serpent.

The memorial rock demonstrates Aboriginal people’s connection to land, stories, to each other and their close connection to the past. Inside the war memorial rock lives an ancestral being who safeguards and protects the memorial.

The Memorial Site

The site chosen for the war memorial has two significant, culturally diverse historical aspects. Before European settlement the area around the River Torrens was named Karrowirraparri by the local Aboriginal people, the Kaurna (literally Red Gum Forest River). The Torrens was and still is important to the Kaurna because of the shelter afforded by the red gums and the food obtained from them. They fished, hunted and gathered, and held ceremonies there.

The Torrens Parade Ground is the memorial heartland of our State. It has a long-standing military association dating back to colonial days and has been used as an assembly point for troops departing on active service, and as a base for many army units.



Private Gordon Charles Naley

1st Australian Imperial Force
World War One 1914-1918

Gordon Charles Naley was the son of William Naley, the station manager of Mundrabilla Station near Eucla WA, and an East Mirning woman whose name is not known. He was born at Mundrabilla Station on 20 January 1884, and was adopted by the wife of one of the station owners.

Gordon was working as a labourer when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 17 September 1914, less than seven weeks after the outbreak of war.

Posted to the 16th Battalion, Gordon took part in the Landing at ANZAC on 25 April 1915 and the fierce fighting on Pope’s Hill at Quinn’s Post in the following month. In late May 1915, he was evacuated with enteric fever, and due to hospitalisation on Malta and in England, could not rejoin his unit in France until August 1916. Gordon fought

in the Battle of Mouquet Farm a few days after rejoining the 16th Battalion, and after a bout of mumps over the winter, fought in the Battle of Bullecourt in April 1917 where he was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans.

Gordon was repatriated to England in January 1919. Two weeks later he married Cecilia Karsh at the United Methodist Church, Fulham. He had met Cecilia whilst she was working as a nurse’s assistant during his long recovery from enteric fever in 1915/16. The couple shipped back to Adelaide on 23 July 1919 and Gordon was discharged on 21 September 1919.

Cecilia and Gordon Settled in Barmera and had six children. Gordon died at Myrtle bank on 28 August 1928 aged 44 and was buried in the AIF Cemetery, West Terrace, Adelaide.